

## Tory 'decision-making' row erupts

# Major hits back with personal gibe at Lawson

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE continuing turmoil over the government's plans to replace the community charge was laid bare yesterday as the prime minister hit back at Nigel Lawson, the former Chancellor of the Exchequer.

John Major was clearly stung by his former Treasury colleague's accusation that in failing to make up its mind swiftly on replacing the poll tax the government appeared to lack the will to govern.

To the obvious astonishment of MPs, after Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, had described Mr Lawson as "perceptive in his view that you cannot choose so you should not govern", the prime minister implied that Mr Lawson had lacked the political courage to implement policies that he had now introduced.

Mr Lawson said on BBC Radio Four's *Today* programme yesterday that he merely wanted an early decision on a replacement for the poll tax. Chris Patten, the Conservative party chairman, said in Edinburgh, however, that Mr Lawson should give the government the loyalty he had expected as Chancellor.

Winning the next election, Mr Patten said, would be made more difficult if the Conservative party was "fighting among ourselves like the Labour party". "If we all want to win the next election - including MPs not standing again - then we had better, in my judgment, sing the same tune."

In an article in *The Times* today, Nicholas Ridley says that Mr Lawson had made a "vicious swipe" at the government. Many people think, he says, that Mr Lawson's shadowing of the Deutschmark, later cemented by ERM entry, is "the main cause of our economic distress".

Mr Ridley, who as environment secretary was responsible for introducing the poll tax, blames Mr Lawson for trying to wound it at birth by allocating an inadequate revenue support grant.

Government sources made it clear yesterday that it does not intend to limit the options presented in the consultation papers on the local tax and local government structure expected after Easter. Nor will ministers telescope the consultation period. Tory MPs fear that this means candidates will face the council elections on May 2 with no details on the new tax.

years, but neglected to do so." Mr Major feels that he achieved Britain's entry into the European exchange-rate mechanism (ERM) where Mr Lawson failed, and that he and Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, have made the taxation system they inherited from Mr Lawson fairer by scrapping the poll tax, limiting mortgage relief and increasing taxation on company cars.

With the government facing a Labour motion of no confidence today, MPs felt that Mr Major had been wrong to let the dispute become personal.

Even MPs who resented the former Chancellor's behaviour in the Commons on Monday said that, apart from the ERM question, the comparison was hardly fair. Mr Major is prime minister, while Mr Lawson had been a Chancellor operating under his dominant predecessor in No 10.

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Unrepentantly, the ministers say that there must be full consultation on matters affecting local councils and the valuation of people's property. Tory MPs are, however, increasingly alarmed by the fact that this will leave Conservative candidates in the council elections on May 2 with no detailed knowledge of the proposed balance between the people element and the property element in the new tax.

Dr Jack Cunningham, Labour campaigns co-ordinator, said the poll tax fiasco showed the Cabinet was operating in a "policy vacuum". "Bounced from pillar to post by a Chancellor who says poll tax stays and an environment secretary who says it goes, Mr Major looks increasingly indecisive. He does not know what he believes any more."

He bitterly attacked the government's decision to force through the bill implementing a £140 poll tax reductions in seven hours of debate. He said that in the teeth of virtually universal opposition, the same discredited bunch who forced through the grotesquely unfair, inefficient and capricious poll tax now wanted to get rid of it. "They guillotined it in and now want to guillotine it out."

John MacGregor, leader of the Commons, said that the guillotine was imposed because it was in the interests of local authorities and community charge payers that the legislation was in place by the next financial year on April 6.

The government's decision to alter the scheme that helps those worst affected by the change from the rates will, however, mean that councils cannot start collecting the tax until June. Local authorities said that changes would mean that computer programs would have to be rewritten.

As a result the Treasury would have to bring forward payments of government grant and business rate worth a total of £2.6 billion, twice the amount it had planned to release.

The environment department press office added to the confusion yesterday by withdrawing a statement it issued on Monday night which said that councils would not be compensated for reducing poll tax bills levied on second homes.

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Fortune's smile: Jeremy Irons with the Oscar he won for best actor in the film *Reversal of Fortune* at the Academy Award presentation. Bashful stardom, page 24

## British companies may be involved in Iraqi hoard

About 30 British companies implicated in a web of undercover investigations held by the Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein are being examined by Kroll Associates, the world's biggest financial investigation agency, which is liaising with British customs.

Kroll is operating on behalf of the Kuwaiti government and America's Office of Foreign Asset Control, the watchdog of economic sanctions. The Kuwaitis are poised to launch legal actions to seize billions of dollars of Iraqi assets.

The asset control office said it would be publishing a 30-page document this week, listing all companies it suspects are fronts for Iraqi cash. The list was not identical to Kroll's but the two would overlap substantially and "a good proportion" of them would be British.

Kroll Associates, known as the CIA of Wall Street and run in London by Patrick Gray-

son, a former Guards officer, from an office in Curzon Street reputedly used by Sir Maurice Oldfield when he headed M15, has traced nearly \$1 billion (£500 million) of Iraqi shareholdings in Europe.

Some of the deals were masterminded by Iraqi representatives in Britain and escaped United Nations sanctions and the freeze on assets instituted on August 2 when Iraq invaded Kuwait. Many of the companies were first activated during the Iran/Iraq war and the covert investment continued beyond the end of the war in 1988. Investigators believe that Saddam then used the basis of those investment links to circumvent the UN sanctions.

A source close to the com-

pany confirmed that Kroll, which employed 20 investigators in the worldwide operation, had looked into the possibility that Saddam might own Heveningham Hall, near Halesworth, Suffolk, which was sold to Abdul al-Ghazzi, a businessman who died suddenly two weeks ago. Mr Grayson confirmed that an investigation was going on but refused to name companies in the enquiry.

A source close to the investigation said conclusive evidence had not been obtained on the ultimate ownership of Heveningham Hall. Kroll has no government authority or rights, but according to the source it has worked with British customs in the course of the investigation.

British customs officers are believed to have helped Kroll throughout its investigation, although a spokesman made clear that its specific mandate related to illegal exports, consisting mainly of armaments. The spokesman said last night: "We would be interested in tracing money and money flow in order to prove that such deals took place. We may have assisted Kroll."

Saddam's use of a worldwide corporate network resembles the financial machinations adopted by the late Ferdinand Marcos when president of the Philippines. Saddam used favoured members of his family, in addition to skimming Iraqi oil profits and more than \$US10 billion of donations from Iraqis.

The Kroll agency says it already has details of Saddam's financial empire based in Geneva, Switzerland.

## Private firms may bid for franchises to run railways

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

DETAILED plans for selling off British Rail by inviting private firms to bid for franchises to run services on a national track authority have been put to John Major by Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary.

Mr Rifkind has also recommended selling off the London underground as a going concern and opening up bus services in the capital and other cities to the competition of the marketplace. His package would mean a virtual end to public sector ownership and management of transport services. The proposals have been drawn up by the Conservative manifesto group on transport chaired by Mr Rifkind. The formula for disposing of British Rail is said to be modelled on the approach adopted by the government to the deregulation of commercial television.

Initially, the track authority would be in the public sector, but it, too, might eventually pass into private hands. Direct government subsidies to hold down fares would be abolished. However, uneconomic but socially necessary services would be protected through a system of local authority grants.

A pledge to sell off the railways in the next Parliament was given by the prime minister at the weekend in Southport. However, he gave no clues about how the government intends to dispose of one of its most unwieldy and commercially fragile concerns. The firmness of Mr Major's commitment suggests he is satisfied that his transport secretary has produced a workable solution.

Standards of reliability and comfort would be safeguarded by a system of fare rebates hinted at by Mr Major in his announcement of a "citizen's charter" to achieve quality control in the public services.

The manifesto group's report recommends that where trains are seriously late or cancelled, the operator should suffer a cash penalty. This is likely to take the form of a discount on the next ticket purchased. Such penalties would be applied to British Rail and then to its privately owned successors.

Mr Rifkind's plan envisages breaking up British Rail into geographically distinct units, much like the six privately owned regional companies that ran the network until just after the second world war. The lines would be owned by

the national track authority and private firms would compete for the right to run trains in their chosen area. Franchises, which would come up for renewal after a significant period of time, would be awarded to the highest bidder provided it could pass safety and service quality tests and show that it had the resources to carry out necessary investment.

A watchdog body similar to those supervising the recently privatised gas, water and electricity industries would be set up to regulate fares and to monitor standards. This organisation would almost certainly have regulatory powers over a privatised tube network.

## Miners defy order to end strikes

From BRUCE CLARK AND MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

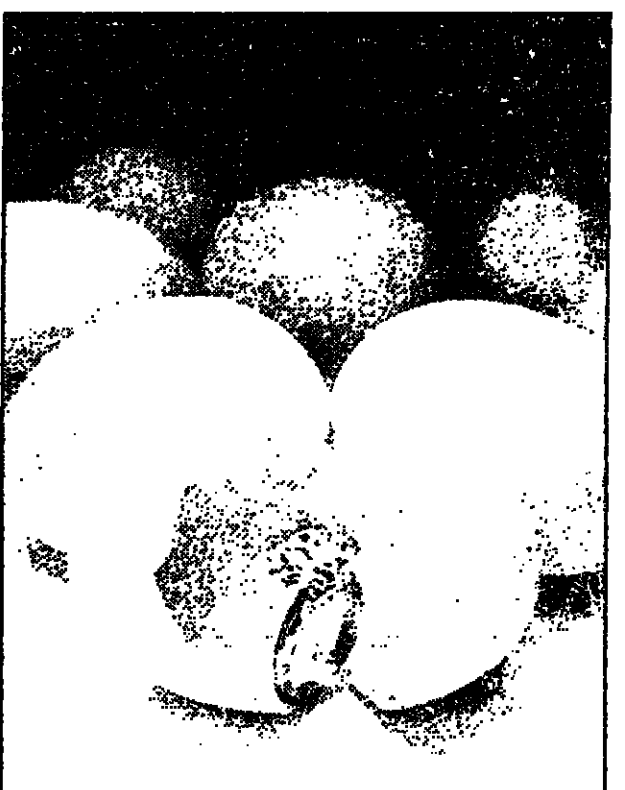
LEADERS of hundreds of thousands of striking Soviet miners yesterday said they would defy an order to return to work, despite the threat of mass sackings and fines. The demand for an end to the stoppage was made by the Soviet parliament, which cited the danger of "irreparable damage" to the economy.

The miners began industrial action three weeks ago across regions stretching from the Arctic Circle to the Far East. The authorities face more defiance in Moscow where defence groups and the city council declared that a demonstration would go on tomorrow despite a ban.

Armoured personnel carriers were being moved into Moscow yesterday to prevent demonstrations, according to unconfirmed reports.

Tomorrow's protest is timed to coincide with the opening of an emergency session of the full Russian parliament, the Congress of People's Deputies. The leader of the Russian Federation, Boris Yeltsin, is expected to face pressure from Communist deputies to resign.

Parliament order, page 15  
Gorbachev defied, page 15



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## GOOD WRITING, KEY ISSUES

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Government officials are to hold a series of meetings with political leaders in Northern Ireland to pave the way for the opening of formal talks on an administration for the province Page 2

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When John Major was measured for his waxwork in Madame Tussaud's they colour-coded his hair, matched his skin pigmentation, and came up with a blue - not a grey - suit for his dummy to wear Page 20

**Mortgage call**  
The Governor of the Bank of England has said he would not object to restrictions on mortgage lending if high interest rates failed to cut house price inflation Page 25

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## Kurdish veteran guerrilla joins rebels

From MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

THE return of Jalal Talabani, a veteran Kurdish guerrilla leader, to northern Iraq yesterday after years in exile is a morale boost to rebels bracing themselves for a bloody counter-offensive by government forces to re-take the key oil city of Kirkuk.

Saddam Hussein's troops were preparing to turn the full force of their wrath against the Kurdish insurgents in the north after brutally suppressing the three week-old Shia

rebellion in the south. Baghdad was also preparing for what could be an even tougher battle on the diplomatic front to end Iraq's isolation under Saddam Hussein, by announcing it would attend an Arab League meeting in Cairo on Saturday.

Mr Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), received a hero's welcome in the northern Iraqi town of Zakho yesterday morning where he congratulated a large crowd of Kurdish peshmergas on liberating their homeland from "the bloody dictatorship of Baghdad".

● WASHINGTON: The Bush Administration insisted yesterday that it will not give the rebels further assistance by shooting down Iraqi helicopter gunships (Susan Elliott writes).

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Talabani returns after years in exile

## Countering fraud with whisky that talks back

By NICK NUTTALL  
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT



A SPIRITS bottle that talks or sings to prove it's the real stuff may be an answer to international counterfeiters who are turning from tapes and watches to drugs, food and expensive drinks. The government is supporting a plan to develop so-called "intelligent" packaging which can tell a customer whether its contents are genuine or not.

The scheme, announced yesterday by Lord Hesket, the industry minister, aims to find ways of making wrappers, boxes and containers which can also show if goods have been tampered with, or if food has passed its sell-by date or not been kept cool enough.

The initiative, which is being launched jointly with the Centre for the Exploitation of Science and Technology (CEST), has a touch of Alice in

Wonderland. In a few years, the wrappers on out-of-date sandwiches could automatically have "Don't Eat Me" written across them, or a spirits bottle could talk or sing to prove it is genuine.

Dr Charles Kingdon of CEST said: "Whether you have a bottle which, when opened, plays a tune or displays a message of some kind will depend on the value of the product. It would be marvellous if a food's package generated a message saying it was no longer safe and that is one of our areas of interest."

The packaging industry is under increasing pressure from cheaper, overseas competition and from fears that a flood of counterfeit goods from eastern Europe is coming as trade barriers fall.

Dr Kingdon said several key developments would form part of the scheme. One is the use of monoclonal antibodies

- biological molecules which in the human body react to specific diseases but which can be used in packaging to authenticate a product.

Biocode, an offshoot of York university, has developed a way of invisibly coating packaging with the antibodies. Retailers or distributors, using a special reagent that changes colour as a reaction to the molecules, could check consignments to ensure that they are genuine.

Another technology using optically variable inks and plastic films is being developed by ICI Imagedata at Brantham, near Manningtree, Essex, which is working on a plastic film which would show a message such as "Help, I have been tampered with" if the packaging had been broken. Temperature sensitive thermochromic paints turn black if packaging has been interfered with or food has got too hot.



POLICE who charged the former Mill Hill deputy leader of Liverpool City Council, with a fraud of £100,000, documents were handed back during their enquiries.

George Wimpsey, the former national construction union leader, was given leave in the High Court yesterday to seek an order requiring the Metropolitan Police to return documents taken from their offices. The documents were said to include irrelevant details about gardening work for the Archbishop of Canterbury at Lambeth Palace and about a manager's appointment.

Mr Hatton, aged 41, was a public relations and property consultancy after his time on the council, was charged on three counts of conspiracy to defraud in the wake of Operation Chameleon, an investigation into alleged municipal fraud that has led to the arrest of 23 people. However, there are no charges against Wimpsey and a suggestion that the company will be involved in criminal proceedings.

Mr Justice Kennedy granted permission for the company to seek judicial review of Judge Crown's decision at Liverpool Crown Court on March 22 to grant the chief constable of Merseyside a search warrant. At the full hearing, which will take place today if a court order is made, the company will also seek an order for the return of all documents and order preventing police from disclosing the contents in press or any other way.

Anthony Scrivener, counsel for the company, Mr Justice Kennedy, said that the company had been told that the documents were not relevant and taken from the public office in Harewood, west London, on March 22. The documents were said to include a letter from the company to the council, as well as documents from the council to the company. The documents were said to include a letter from the company to the council, as well as documents from the council to the company. The documents were said to include a letter from the company to the council, as well as documents from the council to the company.

Hillsborough

By RONALD FAIR

THE jury at the Hillsborough inquest retired yesterday to consider its verdict on the 96 football fans who died in the disaster on April 15 1989.

Dr Stefan Popper, the South Yorkshire coroner, asked the jury of seven men and four women, who have been hearing evidence for 78 days, for a unanimous verdict. He expected them to reach it.

Charity

THE charity War on Want has been given two months to put its house in order after an enquiry found that serious mismanagement and misapplication of funds had brought it to the brink of insolvency.

An independent enquiry team, appointed by the Charity Commission, reported yesterday on how War on Want found itself with debts of almost £2 million. The commission wrote to the Third World Relief Agency, saying that responsibility for many of the grave deficiencies in administration lay with the members of the council of management in office at the time. The commission demanded that War on Want report back within a month on its plans to identify all misapplied money, special trust funds.

A two-month deadline was imposed on the charity's efforts to draw up a plan aimed at ensuring that money was repaid to special trusts. War on Want's council of management was instructed to recover more than £100,000 owed by two of its non-charitable associated companies, and to show how its solvency could be "restored and maintained". Failure to comply could result in legal action to wind up War on Want's affairs compulsorily. Any final decision would be in the hands of the Attorney-General, the commission said. Clive Milledar, War on Want's new director, said:

Westminster agog as MPs seek a solution to the Lawson riddle

By ROBIN OAKLEY  
POLITICAL EDITOR



Lawson: withering attack on government behaviour

THE higher reaches of the Conservative party yesterday resembled a chorus from *Annie Get Your Gun*. Smiling from Nigel Lawson's rebuke that the government had lost the will to choose and therefore to govern, the prime minister hit back by suggesting that he was implementing policies which Mr Lawson had lacked the courage to tackle. "I can do anything better than you."

His withering attack on the government's behaviour over the poll tax elicited a variety of explanations. The opinion of one ex-cabinet colleague was simple. The former chancellor, he said, is "a cheeky old sod who likes to keep in the news". Another said that Mr Lawson, hailed as an heroic Chancellor until his final year, could not bear the thought of leaving politics branded a failure and that all the resentment he had felt at being made a scapegoat for the economic problems at the root of the Tory party's problems over the past two years was now boiling to the surface.

Some MPs could not decide whether Mr Lawson's strictures were directed mainly at the prime minister or at Michael Heseltine, the minister in charge of the poll tax dispute and the man whom Mr Lawson had supported in the Tory leadership contest. That support was described at the time by members of the Major team, led by Norman Lamont, as an intellectual betrayal of all that Mr Lawson stood for, suggesting that even then there was personal animus against John Major.

And perhaps Mr Lamont, the man who had spent hours in his room trying to persuade Nigel Lawson not to resign the day he left the Thatcher government, had had some inkling of what was boiling up. In his Budget speech he went out of his way to pay a tribute to Mr Lawson. Clearly it was not enough.

Chancellors and chief secretaries, whose jobs are complementary rather than intricately interwoven, can and do fall out. But Mr Lawson and Mr Major worked alongside each other as Chancellor and chief secretary for two years without any obvious signs that they did not get on. Mr Major was a loyal lieutenant. But chief secretaries do see a lot of the prime minister and Mr Major must have been seeing her more and more as Mr Lawson saw her less and less.

Then Mr Major was moved out of the Treasury to become foreign secretary when Margaret Thatcher was seeking to break up the Nigel Lawson/Geoffrey Howe operation to persuade her to take Britain into the exchange-rate mechanism. There is some suggestion that Mr Lawson felt let down by Mr Major's attitude then and was looking to him for more support against Mrs Thatcher than he received. His support of Mr Heseltine rather than Mr Major for the leadership is explained by some as a determination to do anything he could to deny Mrs Thatcher the result she wanted from the contest.

Nicholas Ridley, page 16  
Leading article, page 17

Officials to meet Ulster leaders to prepare for talks

By RICHARD FORD AND EDWARD GORMAN

GOVERNMENT officials are to begin a series of meetings with Northern Ireland political leaders to prepare for formal discussions on an administration for the province.

Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, expects the formal negotiations to begin before the end of April and has set a three-month timetable for agreement on the three sets of relationships at heart of his initiative. However, if major progress is made, the timetable could be extended.

Mr Brooke told MPs that the basis existed for formal talks on the relationships within the province, on links between any arrangement set up in the north and the government of the south and on the relationship between the British and Irish governments.

Before the formal start of talks agreement has to be reached on where the different sets of discussions will be held. It is expected that the first stage will be held in Belfast but there is likely to be debate over where discussions on the second set of relationships are held.

During the next few weeks the political parties will have to assemble negotiating teams and prepare position papers for what Mr Brooke admitted would be a "three-month period of intensive activity".

Last night Charles Haughey, Irish prime minister, welcomed Mr Brooke's statement. He said there was now an historic opportunity for both traditions in Ireland. Peter Brooke's statement to the Commons yesterday was a

speech he had been trying to make for almost a year.

His first attempt last July was thwarted at the 11th hour when the Irish government asked for it to be redrafted. Mr Brooke set himself a deadline. The statement would be delivered before the summer recess otherwise the initiative might begin to unravel. That deadline passed. Still no statement. He set a second deadline: Christmas. That one passed too, amid deepening gloom.

Finally, two weeks ago, he issued an ultimatum. He told everyone that if they did not get on board by the Easter recess the whole process would be abandoned. There could be no more negotiation. This time it worked.

That it has taken so long is a measure of the difficulties which have had to be overcome in drawing unionists and nationalists together. Mr Brooke has been confident from the outset that enough "common ground" existed for talks on devolution. But every

step of the way he has faced deep mistrust between politicians made disillusioned by 21 years of violence and failed attempts at reconciliation, to the point of disbelieving that any real progress could be made on solving the Irish question.

Negotiations with the unionists were dominated by their instinctive fear that formal discussions could lead them into a trap to push them further out of the union.

The nationalist Social Democratic and Labour Party and the Irish government were also reluctant to get involved, fearing that they might lose out on the gains made under the Hillsborough treaty.

The initiative has also been threatened by a wide divergence of views on whether devolution, its central stated aim, is desirable in Northern Ireland; what form it should take and how the vital element of power-sharing should be worked into it. This issue will dominate the formal talks.

Initiative will fail, Sinn Fein predicts

THE breakthrough on the talks process is a setback for the IRA and Sinn Fein which have an interest in ensuring that moderate nationalists and unionists never bury their differences while Britain remains in Ireland.

Immediately after Peter Brooke's statement in the Commons yesterday, Sinn Fein said that the initiative would not succeed. Michel

McLaughlin, a Sinn Fein spokesman, said: "There is no partitionist solution, and Mr Brooke, like Mr Haughey [prime minister of the Republic of Ireland] and Mr Hume [SDLP leader], knows that as well as we do."

"Regrettably, the Brooke process is not the basis for a lasting and democratic peace formula. How could it be, when at least 35 per cent nationalist opinion in the North is not represented?"

Independent observers believe that the IRA might step up its campaign of violence to show its defiance and to try to guard against being pushed further on to the political sidelines. One Belfast analyst said: "If there was a deal between London and Dublin which had the imprimatur of the Northern parties, then the IRA really would be completely out in the cold."

There have been rumours that the government has been in secret contact with the Republican movement to try to draw it into the political process, having gained a ceasefire. In November, Mr Brooke spoke of Britain having no selfish desire to stay in Ireland, which was seen by some observers as a strong signal to Sinn Fein to make a move. However, government sources and Sinn Fein officials deny any such contacts.

Man with key role in past decisions bows out

By RICHARD FORD  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

AS PETER Brooke prepares for talks, the civil servant who has been a key figure in many of the decisions affecting Northern Ireland is about to bow out of public service.

Although he has had a low profile, Sir Kenneth Bloomfield, head of the Northern Ireland civil service, has been an influential adviser since the mid-Sixties, when he was involved in planning a historic meeting in 1966 between Captain Terence O'Neill, prime minister of Northern Ireland, and Sean Lemass, prime minister of the Republic.

As Ulster slid into deeper violence, Sir Kenneth served O'Neill's two successors and after the fall of Stormont switched to serving Britain. He became a confidant of William Whitelaw, the first Northern Ireland secretary, and was secretary to the short-lived power-sharing Northern Ireland Executive from January to May, 1974. He was then a permanent secretary in several Northern Ireland departments before taking up his present post in 1984.

Sir Kenneth, aged 59, and born in Belfast, was closely involved in the negotiations leading to the Anglo-Irish agreement in 1985.

He said recently: "Whatever the ideal future state (and status) of Northern Ireland may prove to be, its present state of limbo is in many respects unsatisfactory. It cannot be normal or indefinitely acceptable for the political representatives of a distinctive community of one and a half million people to have quite so little influence upon the government and administration of those they represent."

Nothing created a stronger force for consensus than the obligation to address together practical and difficult questions. "The sharing of responsibility, rather than the sharing of power, should perhaps be the emphasis of any future efforts."

Catholic appointed, page 6



Sir Kenneth: influential adviser since the Sixties



Freedom: Tony Wellington raising a clenched fist on his release yesterday from Long Lartin prison, Hereford and Worcester. Wellington, aged 26, who was serving ten years for armed robbery, was freed after a review by the Court of Appeal. He was convicted on the evidence of the now disbanded West Midlands serious crime squad.

Ministers told of further poll tax delay

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

POLL TAX bills will be delayed by a further month following a government decision to alter the scheme which helps those worst affected by the change from rates to the community charge, ministers were told yesterday.

Local authority computer consultants said that changes to the Community Charge Reduction Scheme announced in the Commons at midnight on Monday would mean that councils would not be able to start collecting the poll tax until June.

They said the changes, which ministers say will help eight million charge payers this year, will require the re-writing of computer programs controlling the collection of community charge from 37 million adults in England and Wales. While that was being done the Treasury would have to bring forward payments of government grant and business rate worth £2.6 billion to tide councils over a two-month shortfall in income.

Councils were already braced for a one month delay in collecting the poll tax caused by the decision to cut bills by £140 and to increase VAT by 2.5 per cent.

Ian Denholm, of McDonnell Douglas Information Systems, which supplies computer systems to 50 local authorities, said a straightforward reduction could have been achieved using existing software but the new reduction scheme, which compares rates bills with poll tax demands, would require new

programs. The Association of Metropolitan Authorities said it would now be impossible to issue revised bills before late May, a month later than originally predicted when the £140 poll tax cut was announced.

David Blunkett, Labour's local government spokesman, said: "The government's attempt to salvage the community charge reduction scheme will have a devastating effect on administrative arrangements." Labour estimates that only a half of all poll tax payers will see their bills reduced by the full £140 promised by the government because they already benefit from one of the existing reduction schemes. For people on social security, who pay 20 per cent of the poll tax, the saving would be only £28.

Complaints increase

Almost 90 per cent of complaints of mistreatment by government departments investigated by the parliamentary ombudsman last year were justified to some extent, a report said yesterday.

William Reid, the parliamentary commissioner for administration, received 704 complaints, 27 more than in 1989. He investigated 177 complaints compared with 126 the year before, the most in one year.

The departments attracting most complaints were social security with 28 per cent, the inland revenue with 14 per cent, and environment with 8 per cent. Payments to complainants ranged up to £58,000 for a delay by the capital taxes office in dealing with a repayment claim.

Open all hours

National Westminster Bank is extending opening hours at more than 2,000 of its branches by the end of July. Most will open half an hour earlier at 9am and close an hour later at 4.30pm, and 500 in key areas will stay open until 5.30pm. The bank is also extending its Saturday service, with branches which now open between 9.30am and 12.30pm staying open through the afternoon until 3.30pm.

Queen's concern

The Queen yesterday expressed her hope that the three British hostages held in Lebanon would soon be free. In a brief conversation with David Tatham, the British ambassador in Beirut, at his invitation she spoke of her concern about Terry Waite, John McCarthy and Jack Mann.

Fatal delay

Miss Helena Thompson, aged 43, a secretary, of Bournemouth, was found dying of starvation in a dilapidated house after her mentally ill mother barred officials from seeing her, the inquest at Poole, Dorset, heard yesterday. She died of malnutrition three hours after being rescued by firemen who forced their way in. The East Dorset coroner, Nigel Neville-Jones, recorded an open verdict.

Judgment day

A judge who has entered the British Airways ballot for a free flight on April 23 has ordered a man to appear before him for sentencing a day early in case he is taking off from Heathrow rather than sitting at Middlesex Guildhall crown court. Mr Eric Crowther remained Noor Uddin of Bethnal Green, east London, until April 22 for social enquiry reports after being found guilty of an attack.

Land-Rover wins orders worth £8m from Kuwait

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

THE first big order for British equipment used in the Gulf war has not gone to the high technology weapons of missiles and electronics but to a firm which makes a vehicle largely unchanged for the past 50 years.

Land-Rover disclosed last night that it has won orders worth almost £8 million to supply more than 400 of its four-wheel-drive vehicles to Kuwait and has options for another 2,000. The vehicles have been ordered by the Kuwait defence and medical ministries for travel on ruined roads and desert wastes.

The order is a considerable coup for Land-Rover, which was competing against the Japanese, who dominate sales of four-wheel-drive vehicles, and the Americans, who hoped that their Hummer 4x4

would succeed the famous Jeep and be transformed into a military vehicle into one for civilian use.

In fact, Land-Rovers have become a favourite vehicle with American forces in the Gulf. The luxurious Discovery model, costing £18,000 and launched two years ago, was used as a staff car by American forces.

The Defender, modern derivative of the classic Land-Rover launched in 1948, was a key vehicle for British forces in the Gulf who used it as everything from a troop carrier, to transporter for sophisticated navigation systems.

The order is divided almost equally between the Defender and the Discovery. A further 100 vehicles are going to Land-Rover's dealer, the Kuwait Automobile Trading

Company, which has been shut down since the Iraqi invasion. That signals the renewal of business in the Middle East worth about £40 million a year to Land-Rover.

Chris Woodward, Land-Rover's managing director, is reinforcing the company's task force of technicians which has worked in Saudi Arabia since the start of the war. They will now help Kuwaiti government officials to maintain and service their new vehicles.

Squadron Leader Kevin Weeks, aged 37, who died on a bombing mission over Iraq in the early days of the Gulf war, was buried with full military honours at RAF Marham, Norfolk, yesterday. He leaves a wife, Liz, and a daughter Amy, aged four.

Kuwait plea, page 11

Spicier selection on the operating table d'hôte

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE Secretary of State for Health's wife has examined patients' food at Guy's hospital in London, and prescribed the abolition of the brussels sprout. She has also recommended the omission of omelettes, an end to macaroni cheese, and has given the chop to chops.

As part of the Guild of Food Writers' campaign to raise the standards of public and institutional food, Claudia Roden, author of *A Book of Middle Eastern Food*, *Mediterranean Cookery* and *The Food of Italy*, contacted Guy's, where her brother works as an ear, nose and throat specialist. "We were originally interested in finding out about the difficulties with hospital catering," Mrs Roden said, "but then the catering manager said they

wanted to rewrite all their menus and asked us to help." To accompany her in this task Mrs Roden recruited Caroline Waldegrave, principal and managing director of Leith's School of Food and Wine, author of *The Healthy Gourmet*, and wife of William, the Secretary of State for Health. They have been visiting the hospital weekly for the past six months. "We did it," Mrs Waldegrave said with relief, "for love."

The new menus, a fortnightly cycle of three-course lunches and dinners, are being tested, and should be introduced in June. They centre on a dish of the day, with vegetarian and "light bite" alternatives. "Formerly the hospital tried to offer a choice of four main courses, which was difficult within the tight budget," Mrs

Waldegrave said. "Concentrating on one dish of the day means the staff can do it so much better."

Mrs Waldegrave said that the chosen dishes were "universal foods" though often with a bit of added



Waldegrave: work was a labour of love

interest. Roast lamb, for example, is prepared with rosemary and garlic, and roast pork with apple sauce and new potatoes roasted in their jackets. There are also some novelties, such as a Jamaican fish creole with rice and peas.

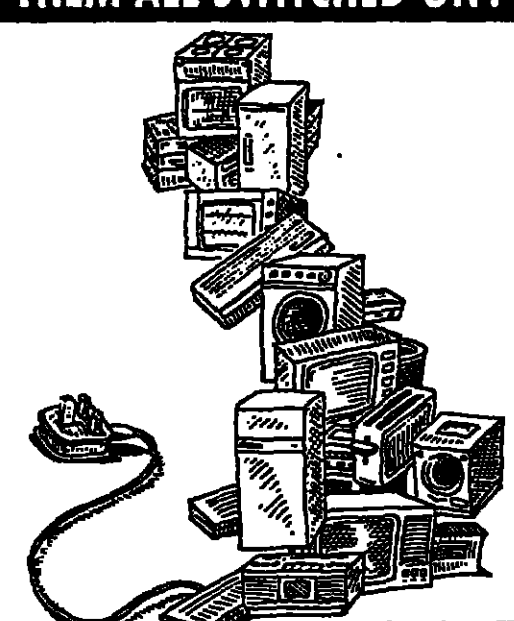
Omelettes, brussels sprouts and chops are out, Mrs Waldegrave said, because they seldom survived the journey to the wards in satisfactory state. *Tortillas* replace omelettes, and though beans and peas still feature, there will also be pulses of spinach ("stops it going that evil colour") and of carrots and swede, as well as stir-fried Chinese leaves.

All the soups are to be home made, and Mrs Waldegrave said that Guy's chef, Enrico Eligio (known as Hector) makes a wonderful

*bouillabaisse*. "He is absolutely terrific," Mrs Waldegrave said. Mrs Roden agreed: "He has been willing to try all sorts of things. For example, we collected recipes for bread and butter puddings... and he is cooking them all to see which will suit the hospital best."

Karen Sorensen, Guy's director of nutrition and dietetics, has analysed all the cookery writers' meals for nutritional content. "Just occasionally I have had to pump them up a bit, because they tended to go for lots of fibre, low fat and low sugar things," she said. "When people are in hospital recovering, they often do not eat very much, so you have to make it tempting and concentrate the calories and proteins a bit more than usual to feed them up a bit."

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# Papers seized in Hatton enquiry may be given back

By MICHAEL HORNSNELL

POLICE who charged Derek Hatton, the former Militant deputy leader of Liverpool city council, with a fraud plot on Monday may be forced to hand back documents seized during their enquiries.

George Wimpey, the international construction group, was given leave in the High Court yesterday to seek an order requiring Merseyside police to return documents taken from their offices. They were said to include irrelevant details about gardening work for the Archbishop of Canterbury at Lambeth Palace and about a manager's dental appointment.

Mr Hatton, aged 43, who ran a public relations and property consultancy after his time on the council, was charged on three counts of conspiracy to defraud in the wake of Operation Cheetah, an investigation into alleged municipal fraud that has led to the arrest of 23 people. However, there are no charges against Wimpey and no suggestion that the company will be involved in criminal proceedings.

Mr Justice Kennedy granted permission for the company to seek judicial review of Judge Crowe's decision at Liverpool Crown Court on March 20 to grant the chief constable of Merseyside a search warrant. At the full hearing, which may take place today if a court is available, the company will also seek an order for the return of all documents and an order preventing police from disclosing the contents to the press or any third party.

Anthony Scrivener QC, counsel for the company, told Mr Justice Kennedy that an excess of documents was seized and taken away in a blaze of publicity from his head office in Hammersmith, west London, and offices in Liverpool on Saturday. As well as documents relating to Lambeth Palace gardening work, there were accounts and sensitive documents relating to contracts in Dubai which brought Wimpey's business to a grinding halt, he said.

The "absurd" amount of documents had nothing to do with what police were looking for, which was identifiable building contracts and certain



Mr Justice Kennedy, told of police action



Supporting role: Robert Munro, a worker at the British Aerospace plant at Kingston, Surrey, taking a break yesterday during a march by more than 3,000 BAE employees through London to protest about closure programmes costing 10,000 jobs (Tim Jones writes). During the march and rally the government was warned that more than 300,000 jobs could be lost in the defence industry unless it addressed the need to counter the "peace dividend" with a coherent industrial strategy. Alex

Ferry, general secretary of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, the umbrella organisation of the 13 unions involved in the march, said that if BAE were to rethink its plant closure programme and withdraw the threat of compulsory redundancies the unions would talk constructively to discuss a diversification programme. If the cuts went ahead Britain would lose thousands of skilled workers who would be needed when the recession ended.

## Record 17% rise in reported crime

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

CRIME in England and Wales increased by more than 17 per cent last year with 4.35 million offences recorded by the police, according to Home Office figures today.

Ninety-four per cent of the offences were against property and 6 per cent against people. The rate of increase is thought to be the highest figure on record and contrasts sharply with a 5 per cent average increase over the past 40 years. The number of recorded crimes was 2.5 million in 1980, while in 1983 and 1988 the figure fell.

The 1990 totals are expected to show a rise of 25.6 per cent for taking away or theft of vehicles, from 393,000 in 1989 to 494,000. Recorded thefts from vehicles rose by 22.9 per cent from 629,000 to 773,000 and general theft offences climbed by 17.9 per cent from two million to 2.3 million. Burglaries rose by 21.9 per cent from 825,000 to one

## 102 workers accused of taking dole

MORE than 100 workers at a building employment company investigated by social security officers were claiming unemployment benefit, it is alleged.

They had claimed a total of £140,000 in benefits they were not entitled to while employed by V and M Contracts of Birmingham, the city's magistrates were told yesterday. Thirty-one workers facing the most serious allegations are being prosecuted.

Chris Diggins, for the social security department, told the court that 320 names were checked. "One hundred and two of those named as working at the company were also claiming benefit as being unemployed." Eight men admitted making false representations yesterday. The other cases are to be heard in the next two months.

## Orkney abuse case hearings separated

By KERRY GILL

THE judicial assessment of evidence behind allegations of ritual sexual abuse of nine Orkney children taken into care by social workers last month, will be held at separate locations.

The four families will give evidence to a sheriff in Kirkwall, the main town on Orkney, while the children's evidence will be heard in chambers at Inverness, the Court of Session ruled yesterday. The court had considered a petition from Gordon Sloan, acting reporter to the Orkney children's panel, who asked for the case to be removed from the islands in the interests of the children.

Lynda Clark, QC, for Mr Sloan, said that previous hearings in Kirkwall had been mobbed by demonstrators and that there would be difficulties in returning any of the children, at present in care on the mainland, who might be called as witnesses. She said that next week's hearing would be carried out against a background of "fairly horrific publicity" and this would make it difficult to protect the children from unwanted media and public attention. Miss Clark said that most of the witnesses called by the authorities would have to come from the mainland and would include social workers, police officers, teachers and psychologists. They would face a community that was very hostile, she said. Alexander Philip, QC, for one family, said that the hearings should be held on Orkney. Lord Hope said that the court had to balance the interests of the children and the parents.

## Husband gets five years for raping his wife

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE first husband to be found guilty of raping his wife since the Court of Appeal swept away the husband's immunity from prosecution earlier this month was jailed for five years by the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

The 33-year-old driver, aged 33, who was not living at the family home at the time of the rape, was told by Judge Capstick, QC: "I take into account that a rapist is a rapist irrespective of his relationship to the victim."

The jury returned guilty verdicts by a majority of 10-2. The case is the first of several which were held up pending the recent Court of Appeal ruling. The court was told that the husband subjected his wife aged 23 to a knife-point rape after she decided that she wanted a divorce.

Mr Jonathan Turner, for the defence, said in his closing speech that the ruling allowing a man to be tried for raping his wife had opened up a legal minefield. It could lead to wives who want quick divorces making false allegations. He also emphasized the difficulties in deciding the issues in cases of husbands accused of raping their wives. He said: "How many little acts of moral blackmail are now going to become evidence in a case of rape?"

Mr Malcolm Fortune, for the prosecution, said that the principle that a man could not be tried for raping his wife had been laid down in 1736. The Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, had made a judgment which overturned that position on March 14. "Lord Lane said the time has now arrived when the law should declare that a rapist remains a rapist subject to the criminal law irrespective of the relationship he has with his victim."

The husband, from Charlton, south London, was found guilty of raping and indecently assaulting his wife. The jury was told that the husband called at the house last September and persuaded his wife to let him stay the night, promising to sleep downstairs. Mr Fortune said the wife's screams alerted a neighbour who called the police.

## Hillsborough jury retires

By RONALD FAUX

THE jury at the Hillsborough inquest retired yesterday to consider its verdict on the 95 football fans who died in the disaster on April 11 1989.

Dr Stefan Popper, the South Yorkshire coroner, asked the jury of seven men and four women, who have been hearing evidence for 78 days, for a unanimous verdict. He directed them to consider

whether individual police officers had been indifferent to or had ignored obvious and serious risk. The fact that people had committed serious errors, been incompetent or maybe liable for civil damages was not the same as saying that a person had been reckless. He said the jury had to consider whether it was obvious that the entry of the fans to the terraces would lead to overcrowding and whether the

judgment of any officer involved was so defective that it could be described as giving rise to obvious and serious risk. Dr Popper said a verdict of unlawful killing could only be returned if the jury was able to attribute those ingredients to a single individual whose conduct had been called into question. The jury will return to the court today to continue its deliberations.

## Charity given two-month deadline

By BILL FROST

THE charity War on Want has been given two months to put its house in order after an enquiry found that serious mismanagement and misapplication of funds had brought it to the brink of insolvency.

An independent enquiry team, appointed by the Charity Commission, reported yesterday on how War on Want found itself with debts of almost £2 million. The commission wrote to the Third World relief agency, saying that responsibility for many of the grave deficiencies in administration lay with the members of the council of management in office at the time. The commission demanded that War on Want report back within a month on its plans to identify "all misapplied special trust fund money".

A two-month deadline was imposed on drawing up a plan aimed at ensuring that money was repaid to special trusts. War on Want's council of management was instructed to recover more than £100,000 owed by two of its non-charitable associated companies, and to show how its solvency could be "restored and maintained".

Failure to comply could result in legal action to wind up War on Want's affairs compulsorily. Any final decision would be in the hands of the Attorney-General, the commission said. Giampa Alhadeff, War on Want's new director, said

yesterday that the report confirmed many of the charity's investigations. "It was in recognition of serious mistakes in the past that the charity was completely turned around last November," he said. General and special funds were now scrupulously separated and a new team of financial and professional advisers was helping War on Want to put its house in order. Mr Alhadeff promised that the charity would co-operate fully

with the commission to verify its accounts back to 1985. Legal advice was being taken to recover money it was owed. The enquiry report said that War on Want was consistently mismanaged during the period under review. "The audited accounts were materially mis-stated for the years 1985-1989 ... War on Want effectively lent money, interest free, to its non-charitable associated companies - War on Want Trading Limited and

WOW Campaigns Limited." The enquiry found that War on Want had "intermingled general funds with funds held on special trusts, and with funds received on behalf of the consortium of charities to which it belonged. Special trust money and money belonging to the consortium was applied for general fund purposes and other purposes outside those for which the particular gifts were received."

Other shortcomings included: failure to define links between War on Want and the consortium of charities to which it belonged; absence of proper membership records; and an unresolved internal dispute - a reference to the internecine struggle that followed a campaign by George Galloway, Labour MP for Glasgow Hillhead, to boost membership and to change the charity's practices.

War on Want was found to be potentially insolvent last March. Jennifer Young, then chairwoman, said: "We grew too large, too quickly and without sufficient controls." In the mid-eighties, War on Want had suffered a series of acrimonious internal conflicts. Mr Galloway resigned as general secretary four years ago after questions were asked about his expenses. The enquiry concluded that Mr Galloway, while general secretary, was "lacking in expertise in crucial areas and failed to become aware of, and thereby to be in a position to alert the council of management to, the warning signs".

## Pay gap widens for chief executives

THE gap between salaries paid to those in charities and those in industry has continued to widen, according to a survey published yesterday by a specialist recruitment consultancy for the voluntary sector.

Olga Johnson, founder of CR Charity Recruitment, said: "Last year, a chief executive of a charity with an income of between £3 million and £10 million earned 65 per cent of his or her counterpart's salary in industry. This year, the median figure has dropped to a worrying 49 per cent." The survey, which was based on returns from 72 national and international charities, including those dealing with the Third World, examined salaries

paid to senior and junior staff. Ms Johnson said: "To continue to attract and retain the highest calibre of personnel in the future, they must develop flexible working practices, structured career paths and competitive benefits."

Giampa Alhadeff, director of War on Want, said last night that he had taken a cut in salary when he joined the charity. "I now earn £24,000 a year. My predecessor received about £2,000 a year more." Oxford said that his director, Frank Judd, was paid £29,965. Barnardo's, the young people's welfare organisation, pays its chief executive between £40,000 and £45,000 a year, a spokesman said.

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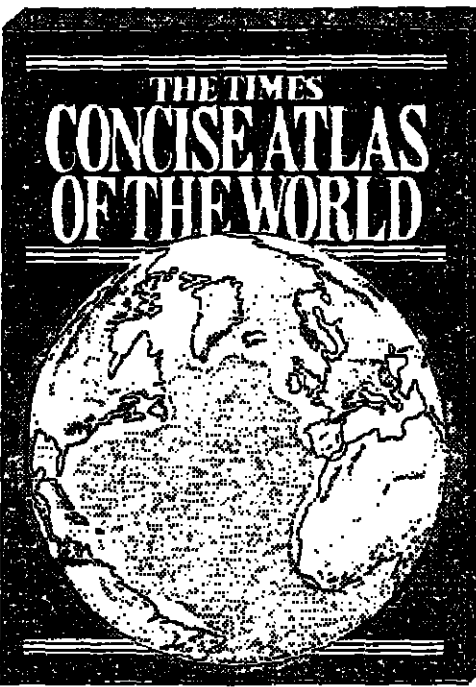
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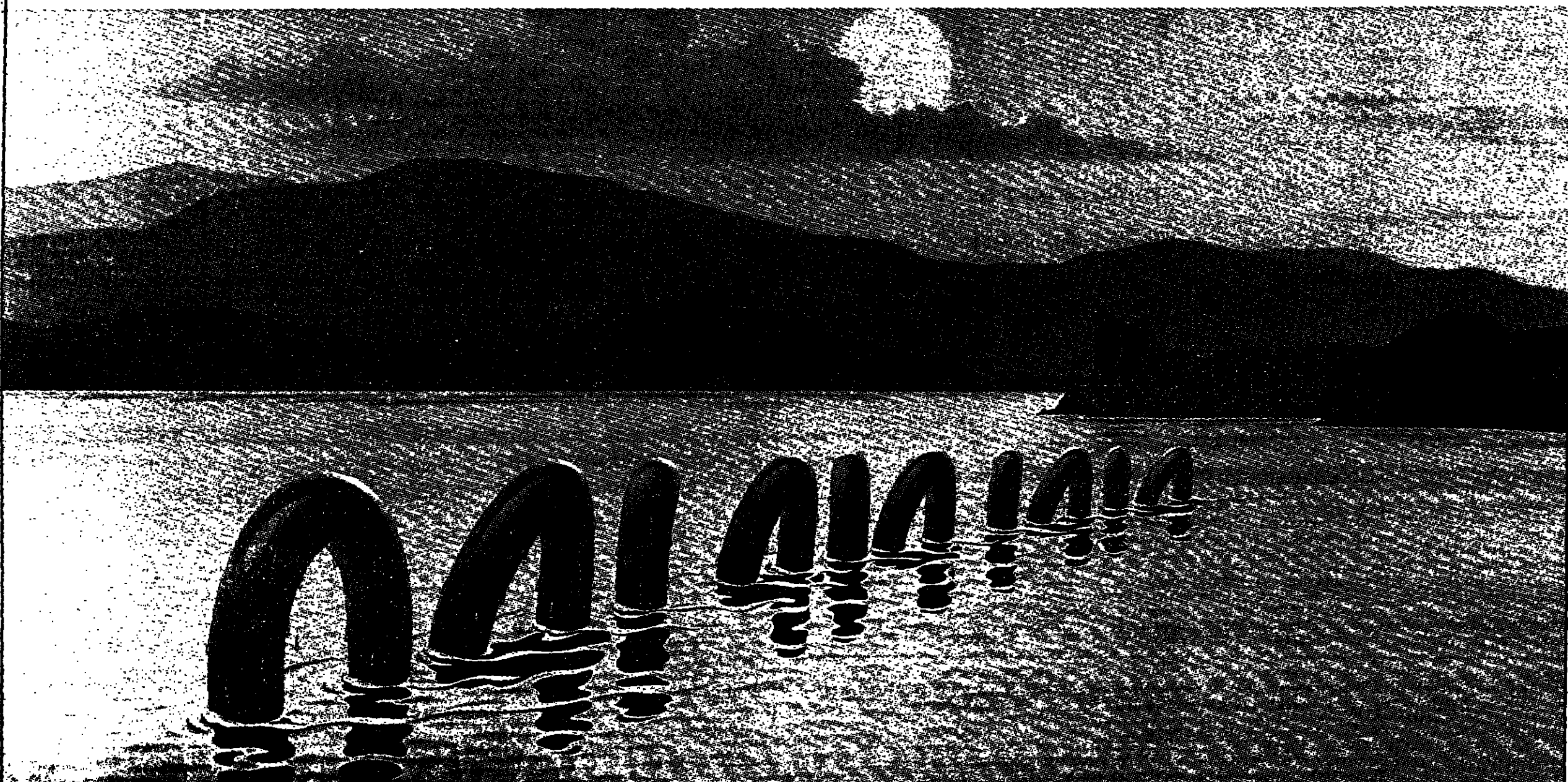
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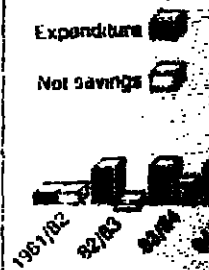
**HOSPITALS** should  
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Waldegrave said at a  
press conference in London.  
He admitted, however,  
that not all hospitals have  
completed contracts for  
primary care and said it  
would be bound to be early in  
the year.

Responding to reports  
that the Christie hospital  
in Manchester was letting  
patients jump queues for  
treatment if health authorities  
towards the cost of a  
closed ward, Mr. Waldegrave  
said that was what  
reforms were all about.  
Under the Christie  
distinct health authority

## SAVING

At the moment



## NHS bill by

THE national health  
service could cut its energy  
consumption by 15 per cent  
£30m a year, by  
efficiency measures  
to a report from the  
Commission yesterday (Jill Sharkey).  
Energy targets  
included when  
performance pay for  
managers, it suggests  
commission says the  
could also help the  
government's attempt to  
reduce carbon dioxide emissions  
levels by the year 2000.  
Energy could be  
better energy management

## Delays diagnosis hit allergy sufferers

FOOD allergy sufferers  
to endure long delays  
to the cause of their condition  
is correctly diagnosed  
annual conference of the  
British Sociological Association  
was told yesterday (Hawkes writes).

Alison Bunnin, a  
scientist who worked at  
Allergy Support Group  
Oxford, found that  
sufferers had to make  
visits to GPs and specialists  
before it was discovered  
what was wrong with them.

In a detailed study  
patients, Dr Bunnin  
found that between them  
they consulted their family  
1.936 times, had been  
hospital appointments  
spent 422 days in hospital  
had taken 7,200 days  
before their problem  
identified as food.  
The costs of the diagnosis  
totalled £17,500, with  
specialist consultations  
another £27,200.

"Food allergy sufferers  
two wars to fight," she  
concluded. "They have  
face symptoms, i.e.  
arthritis, headaches,  
skin and digestive disorders.  
And they have to  
fight against doctors' scepticism  
and lack of training."

One consequence of  
doctors were trained  
they favoured patients  
responded quickly to  
treatment, and resorted to  
logical explanations.  
Symptoms persisted.  
Third of patients were  
referred to a psychologist or a  
nurse. A patient who  
caused migraine and  
told Dr Bunnin: "If  
you are allergic to baked  
or potato, they begin  
you are a nutter."

150-151



## Hospitals can give special deals to sell their services

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

HOSPITALS should be allowed to offer speedier treatment for some patients to encourage health authorities to buy their services, William Waldegrave, the health secretary said yesterday.

He also admitted that following the introduction of the NHS reforms next Monday, different standards would emerge in the health service as some hospitals improve services faster than others.

Next week, 57 hospitals will opt out of health authority control and 306 GP practices will become budget-holders allowing them to buy hospital care. "The most radical reforms in the history of the NHS come into effect on time, as planned, on April 1," Mr Waldegrave said at a London press conference to launch the reforms. He admitted, however, that not all hospitals had completed contracts for delivering care and said there were bound to be early hitches.

Responding to reports that the Christie hospital in Manchester was letting patients jump queues for treatment if health authorities paid towards the cost of opening a closed ward, Mr Waldegrave said that was what the new reforms were all about.

Under the Christie plan, district health authorities who

contribute to reopening the ward will be guaranteed admission for their non-emergency cancer patients within two weeks of referral.

Mr Waldegrave said reopening the ward would help bring down the waiting times for all patients in the hospital. He denied that anyone would be worse off. "We have got to get used to this. This is what the whole system is about." Asked whether he was effectively condoning bribes in the health service Mr Waldegrave said offering guaranteed access for patients in return for custom was no more a bribe than when a shopkeeper sold his goods.

Responding to a question on whether a two-tier system would emerge within the NHS, Mr Waldegrave said it was an inherent part of the new-style health service that authorities and GP fund-holders would push for the best deal for their patients. "It is unlikely that progress will be the same across the country. We are trying to give muscle power to those who want to push forward, so that others will follow."

However doctors pointed out yesterday that only GP practices with more than 9,000 patients could apply to become fundholders. Dr Tony

Stanton, deputy chairman of the British Medical Association's general medical services committee, said: "There is clear evidence that the result of the reforms is going to be less choice. Non fund-holding GPs would be limited when choosing hospitals to the block contracts placed by health authorities."

Robin Cook, opposition health spokesman said that the government's plans concealed three poison pills for the NHS. Patients would lose their choice of hospital, hospitals would serve market forces rather than patient needs and the NHS would be less efficient because of the extra bureaucracy.

Statistics soon to be published showed fewer people waiting for hospital treatment in the six months to September last year than in the previous half-year, Mr Waldegrave said.

Mr Waldegrave announced that Dr Gordon Higginson, vice-chancellor of Southampton university, will chair the new Clinical Standards Advisory Group which will monitor standards of care.



Tank challenges: a Chieftain tank holds few terrors for four members of the Women's Royal Army Corps who today complete technical training to become vehicle mechanics. They are among the first women to complete a 23-week course at the School of

Electrical and Mechanical Engineering at Bordon, Hampshire. They learned the intricacies of Chieftains and other army vehicles and how to drive heavy goods vehicles. Taking leave before being posted to Bielefeld, Germany, are (left to right): Tracie Moore, aged 20, of

March, Cambridgeshire; Amanda Barlow, aged 21, of Ossett, West Yorkshire; Tracey Allen, aged 25, of Brecon, Powys; and Deborah Kelly, aged 19, of Harrow, northwest London. Michelle Minton, aged 24, of Conington, Cambridgeshire, also completed the course.

## Chichester artistic director is replaced

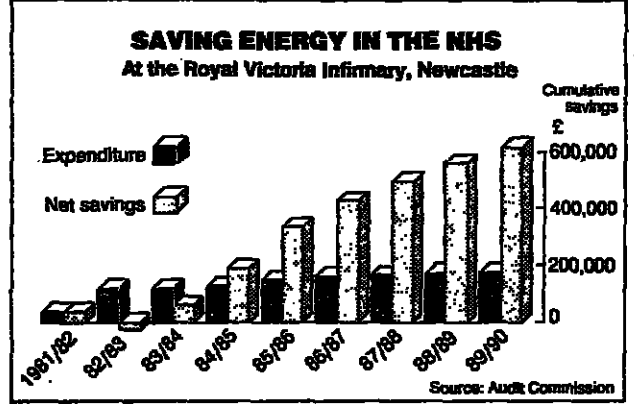
By SIMON TAIT  
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Rudman has been replaced as artistic director of the Chichester Festival Theatre, the theatre's board announced yesterday. No explanation was given for Mr Rudman's sudden departure just before the start of his second season there.

Patrick Garland, artistic director from 1981 to 1984, is to take over the 1991 season which opens on April 29. Mr Rudman was appointed on a three-year contract to succeed John Gale in October 1984 when Robin Phillips, who had previously been appointed, left after only one rehearsal.

Leslie Evershed-Martin, the theatre's founder and a trustee, would not say whether Mr Rudman had been dismissed or if the reason for his departure was unacceptable losses on last season's productions.

Along with many other theatres suffering smaller audiences because of the hot summer, Chichester made an overall trading loss "which was greater than we had expected" a spokeswoman said. However, the season was considered an artistic success. The theatre will open on April 29 with *Arctic and Old Lace*.



## NHS 'could cut energy bill by £30m a year'

THE national health service could cut its energy consumption by 15 per cent, saving £30m a year, by introducing efficiency measures, according to a report from the Audit Commission published yesterday (Jill Sherman writes).

Energy targets should be included when assessing performance pay for hospital managers, it suggests. The commission says the measures could also help the government's attempt to reduce carbon dioxide emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2005.

Energy could be saved by better energy management,

improved monitoring and targeting, more appropriate technology, more investment and the use of incentives, it says. "Investing in energy efficiency can release resources for patient care," said Mr Howard Davies, audit controller.

The report holds up Newcastle health authority as an example. The authority, which now spends £2.8m per annum on energy, has achieved annual savings of £1million from energy measures over the last 11 years.

Saving Energy in the NHS (Stationery Office, £5).

## Delays in diagnosis hit allergy sufferers

FOOD allergy sufferers have to endure long delays before the cause of their complaints is correctly diagnosed, the annual conference of the British Sociological Association was told yesterday (Nigel Hawkes writes).

Alison Bunnin, a social scientist who worked with the Allergy Support Group in Oxford, found that allergy sufferers had to make repeated visits to GPs and specialists, before it was discovered what was wrong with them.

In a detailed study of 30 patients, Dr Bunnin found that between them they had consulted their family doctors 1,936 times, had been to 822 hospital appointments, had spent 422 days in hospital and had taken 7,200 days off work before their problems were identified as food allergies. The costs of the drugs prescribed for the 30 sufferers totalled £17,500, while the specialist consultations cost another £27,200.

"Food allergy sufferers have two wars to fight," she told the conference. "They have to face symptoms, including arthritis, headaches, asthma, skin and digestive disorders. And they have to battle against doctors' scepticism and lack of training."

One consequence of the way doctors were trained was that they favoured patients who responded quickly to treatment, and resorted to psychological explanations when symptoms persisted. Almost a third of patients were referred to a psychologist or a psychiatrist. A patient whose allergy caused migraine and asthma told Dr Bunnin: "If you say you are allergic to baked beans or potato, they begin to think you are a nutter."

## Barbecued meat can be linked to cancer

By NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

MEAT fried or barbecued for long periods and at high temperatures produces substances that have induced cancer in several species of animals, including monkeys, a scientist from the American National Cancer Institute has reported.

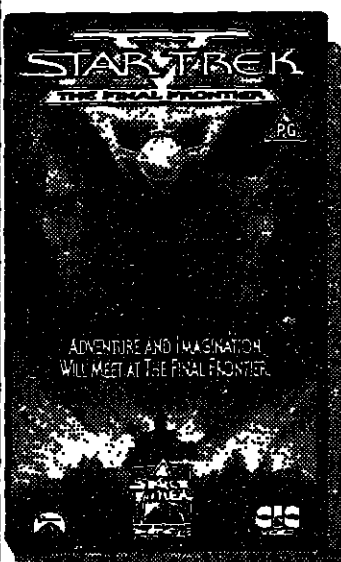
Richard Adamson, director of the institute's division of cancer aetiology, told a meeting of the American Cancer Society that cooking meat in this way produced heterocyclic aromatic amines. Dr Adamson said that high consumption of these substances might cause 1,700 cases of cancer for every million Americans over their lifetimes. "If this was controlled by regulatory agencies it would have been banned yesterday," he said.

The amines were produced by a reaction between amino acids and creatine, both found in meat. High-temperature cooking like frying or barbecuing produced the highest levels of these substances, while roasting and baking caused lower levels. Microwave cooking, stewing, boiling and poaching produced almost no amines.

To reduce the levels, Dr Adamson recommended that beef should be served medium rather than well done. Barbecued meat could be microwaved for a few minutes first and the liquids poured off. When making gravy, the juice from the meat should not be allowed to dry out, since that concentrated the amines. He also recommended varying cooking methods, with stewing and boiling as alternatives to frying.



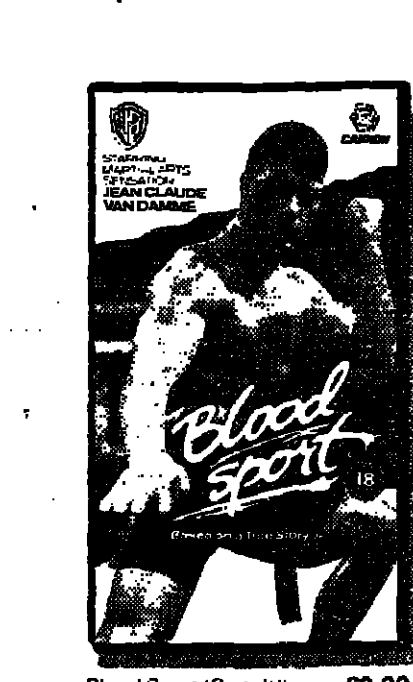
Star Trek - The Final Frontier V (Cert. PG) £12.99



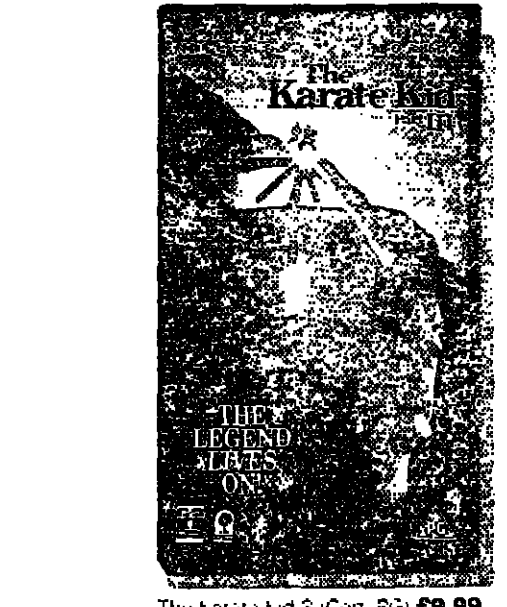
Star Trek V - The Final Frontier (Cert. PG) £9.99



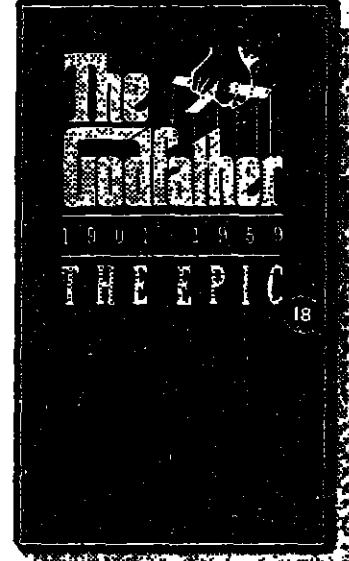
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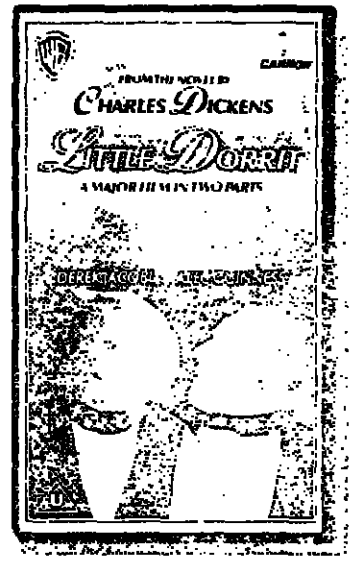
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# Lawson 'son of poll tax' to be among the options



Lamont: intent on saving something from wreckage

By NICHOLAS WOOD  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE local tax formula branded "son of poll tax" by Nigel Lawson will be one of the options canvassed in the government consultation paper to be issued after Easter, according to senior ministerial sources.

In his Commons assault on the way the government is handling its search for a lasting system of local taxation, the former Chancellor said that it would be absurd if the head count element in the proposed people and property tax were to predominate.

The sources made clear, however, that such a solution has not been ruled out and that it will be

included in the paper to be published by Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary. It is understood that ministers will float a range of options varying from a mainly property tax to one bearing a close resemblance to the poll tax.

They will also make clear that England, Scotland and Wales will be able to strike differing balances between the two elements.

The "return-to-rates" wing of the party would like a 40 per cent ceiling on the poll tax element. Defenders of the community charge want the head count part to account for more than half the new tax.

One source said: "The con-

sultation document will canvas all the options between a predominantly per capita tax and a predominantly property tax" and everything between.

Although some ministers are prepared to take a pragmatic approach and adopt whatever formula commands the most support, others on the right of the party intend to fight hard for a new system that retains a sizeable head tax component. They believe that they have a powerful ally in Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, who has emphasised the importance of salvaging from the wreckage of the community charge the principle that almost all should contribute to local

services. A minister on the Thatcherite wing of the party denied that the new tax could be described as a property tax and said that the government needed to get its message straighter by lining up behind Mr Lamont's version of the new system.

Once the options have been set out, ministers and Conservative MPs will be looking to John Major to give a lead as to which approach he favours. In his speech at Southport on Saturday, he gave some encouragement to the Thatcherites by putting people before property.

Setting out the principles on which the new tax should be based, the prime minister said:

"First on the number of people in each household. For I believe it is right that contributions should reflect the numbers using local services. Second, in part on the value of the property people live in. We will not allow high property prices in some parts of the country to feed through into excessive taxes."

Government sources said yesterday that Mr Major regarded the people part of the tax as important, but that his remarks could not be taken as indicating a bias in favour of one element over the other.

Mr Lawson underlined the importance of the argument developing over the make-up of

the new tax. He said: "Even the Opposition are intelligent enough to discern that the question now is 'which part will predominate?'"

"Let us suppose that the basic charge is calculated for a household with three adults and that discounts are applied. For example, if there are two adults there will be a discount and if there is only one adult there will be a double discount. If that is the plan, everything depends on the size of the discount. If the discount is large, the poll tax will reappear and we will have son of poll tax."

Nicholas Ridley, page 16  
Leading article, page 17

## Community charge 'panic is disgrace to our democracy'

By ROBERT MORGAN AND JOHN LEWIS

### COUNCIL CASH

THE government's plans for handling the measure to cut poll tax bills by £140 were condemned last night as a disgrace to parliamentary democracy.

Speaking in the Commons, John Cunningham, shadow leader of the House, bitterly attacked the government decision to force the bill through in seven hours of debate. "For them, there is no time for scrutiny or good administration. They were putting the Tory party first in a 'save the Tories' skins poll bill."

Dr Cunningham added that once again a Tory government was "making a fiasco of local government finance". Yet again a guillotine motion was being enforced, in a panic, with the intention of using between £4 billion and £5 billion of taxpayers' money in a doomed attempt to buy off the people's widespread, implacable opposition to the tax, a tax that should never have been introduced.

In the teeth of virtually

universal opposition, the same discredited bunch who forced through the grotesquely unfair, inefficient and capricious poll tax now wanted to get rid of it. "They guillotined it in and now want to guillotine it out."

This was the fourteenth fundamental change in local government finance by this government. "Time and time again they got it wrong. We have no confidence in their ability to get it right this time," he said.

The prime minister was dithering like Mavis Riley in *Cromation Street* who faced with a difficulty unwisely declared: "Oh I don't really know".

Last Thursday the nation was told that the poll tax was dead, but the monster that had been decapitated was now reappearing as a hydra with three heads, with a property tax and value-added tax sur-

charge into the bargain. When Margaret Thatcher had been forced out, Labour knew there would be a power vacuum. There was a policy vacuum too. The government was not just dithering over the poll tax. It was dithering in every other area. Ministers were acting like startled rabbits caught in car headlights.

John Major, he said, was without the slightest idea of where he was going. Like Mr Micawber, he was hoping for something to turn up. A weak and indecisive government had no way to solve the damaging consequences of the poll tax or the recession or any of the other problems facing Britain.

"The best way to reduce the poll tax is to get rid of it." The bill had been cobbled together to cover the embarrassment of Tories who almost without exception voted for every dot and comma of the original legislation.

John MacGregor, leader of the Opposition, had explained earlier why the government had cut debating time to seven hours. He said that it was in the interests of local authorities and community charge payers that the legislation was in place before the start of the next financial year on April 6.

He said that it was a simple bill with two objectives: to reduce the charge by £140, as announced in the Budget, and to provide for grant to local authorities in compensation for charges forgone and to cover administrative costs.

Until charge payers get their reduced bills, their liability to pay the 1991-2 charge will be suspended.

Mr MacGregor said that there were precedents for taking bills through all their stages in one sitting, but when pressed to name a bill that had been guillotined before its second reading, he failed to answer. He agreed that he had not sought all-party agreement on a timetable to rush the bill through, but said the government felt it essential to get it through before the start of the next financial year. He would be delighted if MPs were willing to pass it quickly.

The guillotine, or timetable motion, allowed three hours for the second reading debate on the principle of the bill, and a further four hours for the committee stage and third reading. Most government bills have a six-hour second reading debate with the remaining stages taking many hours spread over several weeks. The government hopes that the bill will complete all stages in the Lords later today and has made arrangements to deal immediately with any Lords amendments.

Michael Foot, the former Labour leader, said that with all the horrors, inequities and injuries the poll tax had caused, not one member of the government had plucked up the courage to resign. Nigel Lawson and other said that the Treasury had been working against it, presumably trying to give some reflected glory to the prime minister.



Blowing the tax away: a piper leading a protest against the poll tax in Edinburgh

## Lords reject jail sentence council

By JOHN WINDER

THE House of Lords rejected a proposal from the Labour and Liberal Democrat parties last night for a sentencing council aimed at introducing more consistency into prison sentences.

The proposal, at committee stage of the criminal justice bill, was for a council consisting of the Lord Chief Justice and not fewer than four judges appointed by him, with provision for advisers from the prison and probation services and other experts.

The amendment was moved by Lord Richard for the Opposition, who said that disparity of sentencing was causing concern. "Judges bear some responsibility for the number of people in our prisons and they should consider other disciplines."

Lord Hailsham of Llangrove (Lib Dem) said that the whole legal profession had an extraordinarily narrow view of sentencing.

Lord Hunt (Lib Dem), former chairman of the parole board, said: "We cannot have

a bill which would increase the prison population."

The council was opposed by Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, former Lord Chancellor, who said that the proposal would establish a quango that would create confusion.

Lord Longford (Lab) said that the whole future of penal reform depended on reducing the number of people in prison, and that could be achieved only if judges were persuaded to impose lighter or non-custodial penalties.

Lord Faversham, home office minister, said that the prison population should be kept as low as possible, but a sentencing council would undermine Parliament and the judiciary, encroaching on Parliament by laying down sentences.

The present system was better and more flexible without a council than it would be with one.

The amendment was rejected by 152 votes to 91 - government majority, 61.

## MPs want quick action on forests

IMMEDIATE international action should be taken to avert a huge environmental disaster arising from destruction of the rainforests, a cross-party group of MPs said yesterday (Nicholas Wood writes).

They concluded that there was broad agreement that the loss of tropical jungles was contributing to global warming. The combined environmental impact of increased carbon dioxide output from burning timber and increased methane emissions from the farming of cleared land was "very serious indeed".

The environment select committee called for a worldwide convention curbing emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases and safeguarding habitats essential to the survival of a wide variety of rare plant and animal life.

British research institutes specialising in the classification of endangered species, such as the royal botanic gardens of Kew and Edinburgh, had to be preserved,

the MPs said. The United Kingdom's ability to make an important contribution to maintaining biological diversity in threatened areas such as the Amazonian jungle depended on the survival of such bodies.

Overseas aid should be tailored to protecting the rainforests, for example by the sustainable use of timber. The MPs add: "If the developed world wishes the rainforests to be preserved, it must provide the means for the developing countries in the tropical forest belt to withstand the economic pressures on the forests, whether by direct aid, technical assistance, 'debt-for-nature swaps' or other means."

Environment select committee, third report: *Climatological and Environmental Effects of Rainforest Destruction* (House of Commons paper 24, Stationery Office, £22)



## Big fall in days lost by strikes

About 1,500,000 days were lost through strikes in the 12 months ended last January, less than an eighth of the annual average in the Seventies and the lowest 12-month total since 1953, Michael Howard, the employment secretary, told MPs.

Stoppages recorded in January were the lowest for that month since 1929, he added at question time.

## Why Easter is not fixed

Easter is no more likely to be celebrated on a fixed date in accordance with the Easter Act than it has ever been since that Act was passed in 1928, the House of Lords heard at question time. Asked what stood in the way of a fixed date, Earl Faversham, a home office minister, replied: "The churches, my lords."

He said that the Church of England was unwilling to proceed to a fixed date without the agreement of the Roman Catholic Church, which was unwilling to proceed without the agreement of the Orthodox churches.

## Major pledge

The prime minister made clear at question time that the government would support British couples seeking to adopt Romanian children. A team of home office and health department officials had visited Bucharest to co-ordinate help, he said, and the government was in regular contact with the Romanian authorities.

## Tax rebates

The Inland Revenue is expecting a huge increase in the number of claims for tax rebates after the changes in the taxation of bank and building society interest, Francis Maude, financial secretary, said in a written reply. He has told the Inland Revenue that claims should be dealt with in less than three months. Twenty-four new offices have been set up to deal with the work.

## New peer

Sir David Wolfson, who was chief of staff of the political office at 10 Downing Street from 1979 to 1985, and is now chairman of Next, was introduced in the House of Lords as Lord Wolfson.

## Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Environment. Debate on Opposition motion of no confidence. Lords (2.30): Community charges (general reduction) bill, all stages.

## Catholic joins ranks of top civil servants in Ulster

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

### N IRELAND

A SECOND Roman Catholic has been appointed to serve as a permanent secretary in the Northern Ireland civil service. Gerard Loughran's appointment as the top official in the department of economic development means that two members of the province's minority community will be serving simultaneously as permanent secretaries for the first time since partition.

Mr Loughran, who takes over as permanent secretary next month, joins Pat Carvill who is the most senior official at the province's education department. The appointment means that two of the six departments in the province will be headed by Catholics, but senior officials deny that the appointments are "tokenism" aimed at deflecting criticism of the continued imbalance between Catholics and Protestants at the higher levels of the civil service.

Figures from the Northern Ireland Office show that in January only 25 of 175 posts in the Northern Ireland civil service with salaries above £32,500 a year were occupied by Catholics.

An independent survey published last year showed that, despite commitment to equal opportunities, the highest reaches of the civil service in the province remain dominated by Protestants. The survey carried out by Dr Robert Osborne found that among the 465 officials employed in the highest grade in 1989 only 16.3 per cent were Catholics. In 1985, the percentage of Catholics in the highest grade, which included senior principals, assistant

secretaries, under secretaries and permanent secretaries, was 15.1 per cent.

The survey found that the level of representation of the two communities in the civil service was broadly in line with the Protestant-Catholic ratios in the working population; however, the 38 per cent of Catholics were found for the most part in lower grades of the service.

Senior civil servants at Stormont defend the small number of Catholics at the higher levels of the civil service by arguing that it is an hierarchical structure and that it will take time for the imbalances at senior levels to change. They argue that one product of direct rule has been to "sterilise" the civil service and help to remove the perception that existed before 1972 among some members of the minority community that it was the administrative mechanism of the ruling Unionist political organisation.

Dr Osborne, senior lecturer in social policy at the University of Ulster, said: "The civil service have taken the issue of these imbalances seriously. They have created an equal opportunities unit within the civil service that is one of the most sophisticated monitoring systems in the United Kingdom. You could say they had little alternative as they were vulnerable to attack on such an issue, but there has been interest from the very top of the service with the aim of bringing improvement in the balance."

## US firm favoured for House TV

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

AN ALL-PARTY committee of MPs has urged approval for non-stop television coverage of Parliament, supporting a new channel dedicated to coverage of debates in Lords and Commons. The favourite at present is a scheme put forward by the American company United Artists that could be operating by the autumn.

The Commons select committee on broadcasting, which oversees the televising of Parliament, effectively has endorsed the present arrangements for the televising of the Commons in supporting permanent television coverage.

The committee wants the televising of the House's proceedings to be carried out by an outside contractor selected by public tender. John MacGregor, the Leader of the Commons, said last night: "We are urging every other body to tender and contract out and the House should do the same."

Although there have been calls from Labour's deputy shadow leader of the House, Bruce Grocott, for the Commons to take over full responsibility for televised broadcasting of its proceedings, fully financed by the taxpayer, the committee's verdict is that the present



MacGregor: house should contract out the service

televising arrangements are working well and that the deal whereby broadcasters and the House authorities share costs equally is fair to the taxpayer.

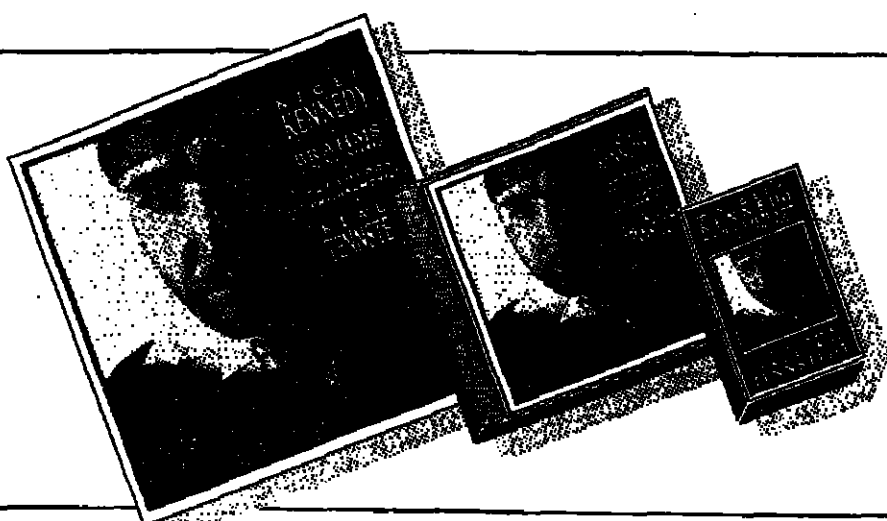
Such a deal, it says, is more cost

effective because contractors can deploy staff on other projects when the House is not sitting, whereas civil servant broadcasters would be a permanent charge. The committee's report concludes: "It is not necessary to establish a special department of the House in order for the House to exercise control over the televising operation."

On a new dedicated channel, the committee says that the House should approve a plan only if "the service consists of live, continuous, unedited coverage of the chamber of the House of Commons from the start of business to the rising of the House on every sitting day". It says that the United Artists scheme, using satellite technology to supply cable channels, offers the most promising prospects for implementation in the near future but that Commons Committee Television (CCTV) "also deserves encouragement".

The new channel would be available initially only to people with suitable cable or satellite equipment. Terrestrial broadcasting companies such as the BBC and independent television are not included among the three consortiums showing interest in the project.

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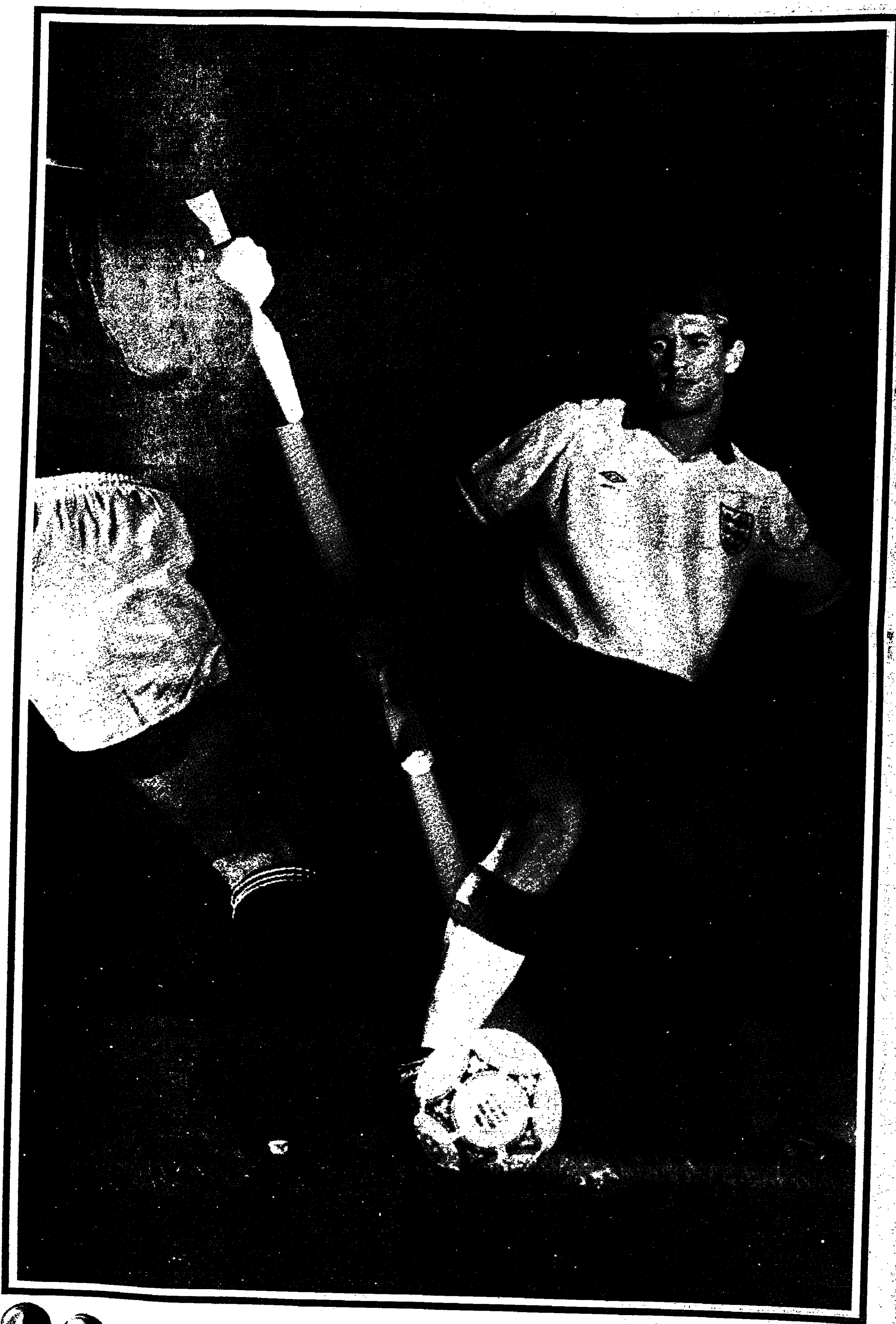


## A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a fighter jet in flight, viewed from below. The aircraft is dark and sleek, with its wings and tail visible. The background is a bright, cloudy sky. The image has a grainy, high-contrast aesthetic.

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# Airline chief demands share-out of Pan Am slots

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

THE battle over landing and take-off slots at Heathrow intensified yesterday when a British airline called for all routes used by the bankrupt Pan Am airline to be given to existing and new airlines on a 50-50 basis laid down by the International Air Transport Association.

The call, made by Michael Bishop, chairman of British Midland, follows a decision by Heathrow's scheduling committee on Monday to suspend a decision to transfer all Pan Am's slots to United Airlines after complaints from other airlines that this would be in breach of rules.

The United Airlines deal was set up by Malcolm Rifkind, the transport min-

ister, in an attempt to save Pan Am which will receive £290 million from the sale of its slots. It was part of a new transatlantic air services agreement and involved changing Heathrow's operating rules. But other airlines, threatening legal action, have forced Mr Rifkind to accept, much to his embarrassment, that the problem will have to be solved another way.

Mr Bishop said yesterday: "Someone obviously failed to look at the small print of the United deal. There is a clear set of rules governing the

whole question of slot allocation and these should be adhered to. The government's policy of stimulating competition can only be supported if it is matched with action to alleviate congestion at Heathrow. These problems are now coming home to roost with a vengeance."

British Midland supported efforts by new airlines to secure entry to Heathrow, but "not at the expense of existing applications to increase competition on European routes". Mr Bishop wanted the scheduling committee, based on a voluntary grouping of airlines chaired by British Airways, to be scrapped and replaced by an independent body.

Richard Branson, the Virgin Atlantic chairman, is determined to fight to get more slots for his own airline, if necessary at the expense of United. "Our first preference is for the Government to take hold of this issue and review it to come up with a system which makes the best use of slots," he said. "We will talk to the airlines, the airport operators and the Government in the hope of reaching a compromise so that both United and ourselves get a fair share of the slots made available through the sale of Pan Am's Heathrow operations."

A transport department spokesman said: "We are aware of the situation and monitoring it but would advise airlines to get in touch with the scheduling committee rather than contacting us."

United, meanwhile, are determined to fly into Heathrow as planned on April 3 with or without the formal approval from the committee. Officials at their Chicago headquarters say they have the full backing of the American Department of Transportation.



Trust's triumph: Avebury Manor and its garden, bought by the National Trust after the bankruptcy of its previous owner, Ken King

## Manor sale lifts threat from Avebury circle

By JOHN YOUNG

THE National Trust's long campaign to protect the great neolithic monuments at Avebury, Wiltshire, designated a world heritage site, ended in triumph yesterday with the announcement that it had bought the Elizabethan manor house which stands a few yards from the famous stone circle.

The purchase virtually ensures that the surroundings of the site will be protected from unsuitable developments which would damage its superb setting and attract too many visitors. The house, listed grade one, was put up for sale by Ryan

Densham, the receiver, of Price Waterhouse, Bristol, after the bankruptcy of Ken King, the previous owner, a builder and developer from St Albans, Hertfordshire. The trust declined to say how much it had paid but said it competed with other prospective purchasers.

Mr King, who bought the house and grounds in 1988, had planned to turn them into an "Elizabethan experience" theme park. The scheme caused an outcry among conservationists and local residents, and was rejected by Kennet district council, which successfully prosecuted him for making

unauthorised alterations to listed buildings.

David Bett, the trust's Wessex regional director, said yesterday: "This important house and garden holds the key to protecting a vital part of the unique setting of the prehistoric stones." Part of the money for the purchase came from the will of two women, Ida Bond, of Esher, Surrey, and Margaret Spencer, of Bournemouth, Poole, Dorset.

Miss Bond, a life member of the trust, who died in 1989, had bequeathed it her house and its contents, estimated to be worth £350,000, on condition that the money

was used to buy a house in Wiltshire, Mr Bett said. It had come as a complete surprise and he had no idea why Miss Bond had included such a condition in her will. "However it was just what we needed to save Avebury," he said. Miss Spencer was also a trust member for many years.

The purchase of the manor completes a trio of successes for the conservation lobby, which began two years ago when the government rejected plans for a hotel and conference centre on a hill overlooking the site. Similar proposals for West Kennet farm, near by, were rejected

by Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, in December after a planning enquiry inspector recommended refusal. Mr Bett said yesterday that the trust still wanted to buy other sites in the area, and would be seeking further funds through the Avebury appeal, launched in 1989.

The outcome of a planning enquiry into Mr King's application for retrospective consent for several buildings in the grounds of the house, which were erected without permission, is still not known. Mr Bett said he expected Mr Heseltine to refuse permission. But in any case the trust intended to remove most new buildings, including the "market square" and the estate office at the manor entrance.

It was planned to hold a number of open days at the house later this year, so that local people in particular would have the chance to see it. The trust would have to find a tenant to live in the manor to help raise money for upkeep and repairs. But the garden and a small part of the house would be open regularly to the public.

## Bachelor farmer leaves £2m to scouts

A bachelor farmer who died aged 78 last December has left most of his fortune to the scout movement in Essex. Norman Garon, of Rochford, Essex, who left £2,296,536 net in his will published yesterday, had been a recluse until at the age of 65 he was taken by a friend to a venture scout meeting.

Philip Tolhurst, an executor, said: "It began a special interest in his life. He found a fulfilment through working with young people." He then set up the Norman Garon Trust to help scout groups in the county. Most of his fortune was left to the trust.

## Claim rebuffed

Kathleen Surtees, aged 26, of Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, who sued her former foster parents for damages after badly scalding her foot 23 years ago while in their care, yesterday lost her Court of Appeal fight to prove they were negligent.

## £100m charge

David Bullen, aged 44, of no fixed address, was yesterday remanded in custody by Guildhall magistrates, London, accused of importing 392 kilos of cocaine with a street value of £100 million.

## Clapton inquest

An inquest was opened and adjourned at Guildford, Surrey, yesterday into the death of Eric Clapton's son Conor, aged four, who fell from a New York skyscraper.

## £50,000 theft

Silver worth about £50,000 was stolen early yesterday from the home of Aline, Countess of Wintcliffe, at Wortley, near Sheffield. The countess raised the alarm.

## Safety moves

The energy department is expected to announce today proposals to increase safety on North Sea oil and gas installations.

## Head count

A census of population will take place in the Irish Republic on Sunday, April 21.



Rifkind: forced into embarrassing climbdown

ister, in an attempt to save Pan Am which will receive £290 million from the sale of its slots. It was part of a new transatlantic air services agreement and involved changing Heathrow's operating rules. But other airlines, threatening legal action, have forced Mr Rifkind to accept, much to his embarrassment, that the problem will have to be solved another way.

Mr Bishop said yesterday: "Someone obviously failed to look at the small print of the United deal. There is a clear set of rules governing the



Variations in a theme park: "Elizabethan experience" events planned at the manor by Mr King (above, right)



# Congratulations

British Aerospace pays tribute to all the Coalition Forces for their exemplary performance during the recent events in the Gulf.

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A GROUP of officers have criticised al-Jabir, the Emir of Kuwait, for his role in the Gulf crisis.

The Interior Minister has announced that the government will be taking steps to ensure that the country's security is maintained.

Bonn for C incre

Bonn - Germany's foreign minister has announced that the country will be taking steps to ensure that the country's security is maintained.

Despite this, the finance minister has announced that the country will be taking steps to ensure that the country's security is maintained.

Torture

London - A national newspaper has described the Gulf crisis as a 'repression'.

Oil

Crude oil prices have risen sharply, with some analysts predicting a further increase.

Japan aid

Tokyo - Japan's aid to the Gulf crisis has been described as 'modest'.

Wa

ANIMALS cared for by the British Red Cross have been sent to the Gulf crisis.

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## Officers tell emir to sack ministers who fled invasion

FROM JAMIE DETTMER IN KUWAIT CITY

A GROUP of Kuwaiti army officers have written to the emir, criticising Sheikh Nawaf al-Jabir, the defence minister, and Sheikh Salim al-Sabah, the interior minister, for failing to remain in their posts during the Iraqi occupation, and advising that they be dismissed.

The letter by the officers, who range from colonels to captains, reflects the noticeable division between people who remained in the emirate and those who sought sanctuary in Saudi Arabia or the West during the occupation.

It is the first time that army officers have formed a group and informed the emir, Sheikh Jaber Ahmed al-Sabah, of their wishes. Local committees which sprung up during the occupation are still much

in evidence. They have been at the forefront of public demands for political change, and have mounted demonstrations against what they see as government complacency towards Kuwaiti prisoners of war held in Iraq.

Leading opposition politicians have said that elements in the Kuwaiti armed forces are growing restive with the lack of regular electricity, water and food in the emirate and with the government's general apathy. No observer here believes the military will intervene in the running of Kuwait, but the weekend letter indicates that some people in the army would like to see changes in the way the emirate has been governed in the past.

The interior and defence ministers are on the hardline wing of the ruling al-Sabah family and are keen to see the emirate return to the way it was before the invasion. Along with the other 20 ministers in the cabinet, they resigned last week at the request of the crown prince and prime minister, Sheikh Saad al-Sabah.

According to diplomatic sources, there will be few changes in the line-up of ministers when the new cabinet is announced this week. However, the sources believe that Sheikh Saad al-Sabah will sacrifice Sheikh Nawaf al-Sabah. They also believe the crown prince will bring in one of the leaders of the resistance and a figure from a prominent merchant family.

According to British and American diplomats, Sheikh Saad al-Sabah has accepted the need for change. There are signs he is winning in the debate raging in the family. This week, the US Corps of Engineers, which is heading a multimillion dollar emergency reconstruction programme, was asked to turn its attentions to the parliament building which has stood empty since the emir fled Kuwait.

So far, the government seems incapable of getting to grips with rebuilding Kuwait. Private contractors working for the US Corps of Engineers complain of the difficulties in trying to bring in labour and materials. Two managers from Shand International, the British firm responsible for emergency work on water and sewer facilities, complained yesterday of the bureaucracy involved in moving essential equipment from Saudi Arabia.

Little has changed in the emirate since liberation. Last week, workmen started burning the rubbish that has mounted up in every street, and damaged cars and military vehicles are being towed away. But the distribution of food and water in the country is poor and only four areas in the capital have electricity. Some consignments of food have rotted without being unloaded.

**Oil well plugged**  
Greater Burgan oilfield, Kuwait - Firefighters plugged the first of hundreds of damaged Kuwait oil wells by connecting a pipe to an oil-well head and forcing 250 barrels of mud, each containing about 35 gallons, down the installation in 30 minutes. It had been spewing 15,000 barrels of crude oil a day after being damaged by Iraqi troops. (AP)

**Japan aid deal**  
Tokyo - Japan announced an aid deal worth \$5.6 million for Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Taro Watanabe, the foreign ministry spokesman, said that Tokyo would give the money to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for refugees to buy food. (Reuters)

**Torture report**  
London - An Amnesty International report on Morocco describes its treatment since December of rioters and anti-Gulf war demonstrators as part of a 30-year pattern of repression, with prisoners' heads immersed in buckets of urine, and the use of electric shock and suspension in contorted positions. (Reuters)

**Bonn bill for Gulf increases**  
Bonn - Germany's contribution to the Gulf war will cost 300 million marks (£103 million) more than expected since the dollar has strengthened against the Deutschmark, largely because the conflict ended quickly. (Ian Murray writes)

**Bachelor farmer leaves £25 to 50 cows**  
A bachelor farmer leaves £25 to 50 cows



Rushed removal: Iraqi civilians fleeing to seek safety at a frontline American checkpoint after President Saddam Hussein's troops recaptured their town, Saq ash Shaykh

## Israel's pass law blamed for rising misery

FROM PAUL ADAMS IN JERUSALEM

INTERNATIONAL organisations yesterday accused Israel of using a pass system in the occupied territories which is causing severe social and economic hardship.

The Co-ordinating Committee of International Non-Governmental Organisations, an ad hoc group of 30 organisations including Save the Children and Catholic Relief Services, said that life in the Israeli-occupied territories had yet to return to normal after the Gulf war, in spite of denials issued by the Israeli authorities.

"On the contrary, Palestinians are being subjected to an entirely new form of domination - the pass system," the

committee's latest report said. The elaborate pass system - and the remnants of the curfew imposed to maintain order during the Gulf war - have combined to disrupt and to damage the social and economic fabric of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The government is expected to announce new restrictions today on the number of Palestinian workers allowed into Israel as a result of a recent wave of stabbing attacks on Israeli civilians.

Restrictions imposed in the wake of the Gulf war have already resulted in soaring unemployment. The report said the figure had risen to 30 per cent, leaving 150,000

workers and their families without any means of support.

"The level of destitution is approaching crisis proportions," the committee said, adding that families in some West Bank villages were already living below subsistence levels.

Malnutrition has increased by 30 per cent, largely as a result of changes in consumption patterns brought on by severe economic hardship. The latest restrictions are contributing to the worst economic recession in more than 20 years.

The passes, which limit access to Israel and control movement within the Israeli-occupied territories, seem to

have affected every aspect of life.

Stress-related diseases, diabetes and heart attacks are becoming more common. Medical staff have been prevented from reporting for work and out-patients have been unable to reach hospitals for regular treatment, according to the report.

The sheer difficulty in moving from one place to another has also affected schools and has prevented tens of thousands of Palestinian Muslims and Christians from worshipping at Jerusalem's holy places.

Israeli leaders have rejected American condemnation of Israel's decision to deport four

Palestinians from the Gaza Strip.

The foreign minister, David Levy, said yesterday that he regretted Washington's position, while the hardline science and energy minister, Yuval Neeman, said the United States had shown a lack of understanding.

The director-general of the prime minister's office, Yossi Ben Aharon, said Israel was forced by "a massive violation of law and order" to adopt measures "which seem harsh". He went on: "This measure of expulsions is an efficient way of signalling to the population that we will not tolerate a continuation of such violent attacks."

## UN chief fears Iraq famine

FROM ALAN MCGREGOR IN GENEVA

FOOD supplies in Iraq are "in free fall" with no more than a 50 per cent chance of famine being averted, according to Robert Reid, the Middle East director of Unicef, the United Nations Children's Fund.

He said yesterday that preliminary symptoms of malnutrition, especially listlessness, were increasingly evident among children. The average individual was getting no more to eat than about half of what was required for a child aged five, with little or no protein.

Representatives of all UN agencies and also of non-governmental organisations involved in relief work for Iraq are meeting in Geneva under Unicef's auspices. They have been told that, with some medicines arriving and water supplies gradually being restored in Baghdad, the prospects for averting outbreaks of disease with the onset of warm weather are improving.

While UN officials envisage the possibility of some help from the coalition forces, they see little chance of this materialising while internal strife in the country continues.

## Syria vows not to meddle in others' quarrels

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER, DAMASCUS

SYRIA, one of the main diplomatic and economic beneficiaries of the Gulf war, yesterday promised not to interfere in the turmoil in Iraq, despite playing host to many exiled opposition groups.

Muhammad Salman, the information minister and a close aide to President Assad, criticised the government of President Saddam Hussein, but said that Syria supported the continued unity of Iraq.

"What is going on in Iraq is

a people's uprising against the Iraqi regime which insists on remaining in authority despite all the pain which it has inflicted on the country through its risky and destructive policies, both internal and external," Mr Salman said. "Syria supports the unity of Iraqi territories and the confirmation of non-interference in its internal affairs. We respect the will of the Iraqi people in anything that they decide for themselves and which can save them from the dilemma in which they are now living."

Unlike Iran, which Iraq has accused of openly stirring up the revolt against Saddam, Syria has so far escaped censure, despite its sympathy for both Islamic and Kurdish opposition groups, which have offices in Damascus. Senior Western diplomatic sources said there was no evidence that Syria was doing more than turning a blind eye to border crossings by Kurdish and other opposition leaders travelling to northern Iraq, and running a propaganda campaign against the Iraqi

government in the national media.

"There is no obvious sign that it is providing arms," one Western envoy said. "It has the same interest as countries in the West in not seeing Iraq splinter into two or more states which would seriously destabilise the region."

Mr Salman, giving one of

Syria's first public responses to the Iraqi uprising, said that the Syrian government would be backing the principle of non-interference because "we belong to one nation and we are very interested in Iraq regaining its health within the framework of the Arab family". He said he supported the idea of an international Middle

East peace conference. The minister avoided stating what kind of Iraqi government Syria would like to see emerge, but it is assumed in diplomatic circles that it would prefer to see a stable, Sunni Muslim regime run along authoritarian lines as is Syria, which is ruled by a rival wing of the Baathist party.



Assad: turning a blind eye to rebel border crossings

## War leaves its scars at the zoo

FROM JAMIE DETTMER IN KUWAIT CITY

ANIMALS cared for by British and American army vets in Kuwait City zoo still bear scars inflicted by trigger-happy Iraqi soldiers.

Bullets from a Kalashnikov rifle are lodged in the right shoulder of an elephant and in a hind leg of a Russian bear. A verber monkey may lose a leg unless the vets can get the equipment to remove a 9mm bullet and accomplish the necessary bone grafts.

But life is improving for the animals. A young Himalayan bear grabbed a bag full of

dates, then started a gymnastic display worthy of the great Olga Korbut as it wrestled with the bag on the cage floor. The fruit, much to the bear's joy, came tumbling out.

Major Tom Ogilvie-Graham, a British army vet, said: "I'm not so worried about the elephant now, but I will probably have to put the (Russian) bear down." A few days ago he called in British army engineers to use a mine detector on the elephant to help identify the location of the AK47 round, a trick he

first learnt when treating Household Cavalry horses injured in the 1982 IRA bombing at Hyde Park. "The elephant is doing well. The bullet will either become walled off with fibrous tissue, or over the years it will work its way out."

Four weeks ago, when British and American soldiers arrived at Kuwait's zoo, they found starving and wounded animals. Foul-smelling carcasses were scattered everywhere. Two hippopotamuses were close to death in a few feet of water that was completely black with manure. The zoo had served during the Iraqi occupation as a barracks and a playground for trigger-happy soldiers, who taunted and teased the animals - when they were not eating them.

While the elephant is scitish now, the injured Russian bear sits hunched and panting. His huge front paws lie inert, and his head lolls from side to side as he tries to escape the pain that assails him despite the liberal use of drugs. Two younger Russian bears pacing close by keep their distance. "What I need is a dart gun. I can't operate until I get one. I filled him with oral tranquilisers the other day, but they still did not knock him out," said Major Ogilvie-Graham.

The care and attention lavished on the remaining animals is getting results. Five lions which were highly aggressive when the vets first approached them now sit quietly, every now and again rubbing their necks on the

bars and casting a look of mild interest at the humans. "They are too fat now," said a British vet.

Many of the animals have developed interesting self-defence mechanisms, said Sergeant Warren Cox of the US army's veterinary corps. "A lot of the animals will rush back into their enclosures at the back of the cages if you walk around with a gun." Two European wolves are still too scared to show themselves, and the meat which is thrown into their cage is not touched during the day. But at night they venture out, grab the food and return quickly to the safety of their enclosure.

The transformation of the small zoo has been a joint British-American effort. A few Kuwaitis helped a group of Sri Lankans to clean and carry the carcasses of lame cows, horses and donkeys that Sergeant Cox has found to provide fresh meat. The Kuwait government has provided no official aid.

Occasionally, animals that were thought to have been eaten by the Iraqis or transported to Baghdad are found, having been cared for by locals. Yesterday the zoo's turtle was returned, its shell painted in Kuwait's national colours of red, green, black and white.

The Iraqi soldiers are several varieties of animal, including porcupines, pumas and a leopard. However, the zoo officials are mystified about where their crocodile has got to. "I don't know where that one is."

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سكزا عن الاموال



## World Bank seeks to save 20m Africans from starving

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE World Bank today begins a crucial meeting of donor countries in Paris amid warnings by international relief agencies that Africa faces famine on a more catastrophic scale than ever.

Revolutions and civil wars, drought, persistent crop failures, mismanagement and mass migration threaten all corners of the ravaged continent. More than 20 million people now face starvation in six countries, while emergency grain supplies are more than two million tonnes short of their target, and principal

donor nations have been pre-occupied with the Gulf war.

Food levels in some countries are down to a few weeks' supply. Although the world has begun to focus on the devastation that this summer will bring to Ethiopia, Sudan and Somalia, relief efforts are inadequate and bogged down in political argument and chaotic organisation.

The Paris meeting will be attended by all the main donors of relief to Africa. It will aim to co-ordinate relief and development efforts over the next few years and will look at how debt is crippling efforts of African countries to cope with the deteriorating food situation.

The Horn of Africa is the most critically affected. The World Food Programme estimates that in Sudan nearly eight million people need emergency food aid, put at 1.2 million tonnes. By early this month, only 438,000 tonnes had been pledged and only 60,000 delivered. In Ethiopia, more than six million people are estimated to be in need of food aid amounting to 1.2 million tonnes, and more than half has still not been pledged. In Somalia, the civil war and disturbances after the overthrow of the former president, Siad Barre, have raised fears of massive crop failure as refugees abandon the land and seek shelter.

Southern and western Africa are also hard hit. The failure of peace talks in Angola and the subsequent suspension of the United Nations special relief programme has left 19 million people severely affected by war and drought. In Malawi, drought has also taken a heavy toll, and the presence of 800,000 refugees has strained relief efforts. In Mozambique, almost two million people are suffering food shortages, and the UN and Mozambique have appealed for \$96 million (£54 million) to help those dependent on food aid.

Civil war in Liberia has displaced 1.5 million people, with disruption hampering relief efforts and more than 700,000 people seeking refuge in neighbouring countries.

Oxfam has appealed to the European Community to release an extra 750,000 tonnes of cereals above that already pledged. The community, the second largest donor after the United States, has 20 million tonnes of cereals stockpiled. Oxfam recently launched an appeal which brought in £1.6 million, one of the largest amounts ever raised. However, £300 million to £400 million are needed to supply Africa's needs.

Oxfam also called for additional funds from Britain and America, and a speeding-up of operations so that food is delivered in the first half of 1991. The agency said donors should ensure there is no diversion of aid from developing countries to Eastern Europe or the Gulf states.

## Mali rejoices as army takes over

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE army yesterday seized power in Mali after four days of pro-democracy rioting in the West African state.

President Moussa Traore and his family were reported to be under arrest as the armed forces set up a National Reconciliation Council led by Lieutenant-Colonel Amadou Toumani Toure, a paratroop commander, to run the country.

The news was greeted with noisy celebrations in Bamako, the capital, as people showed their approval of the downfall of the man who had ordered troops to fire at demonstrators over the weekend, killing an estimated 150 people. Thirty people were said to have died in the new demonstrations.

The council declared a night curfew, shut Mali's borders, suspended the constitution and dissolved the government and Mali's one political party, the People's Democratic Union. It said it would work towards establishment of a multi-party democracy within the shortest possible time.

An army statement said that, together with "the democratic organisations of our country", it had decided to put an end to the bloody and corrupt regime of President Traore and his clan. It was time to rid the country of corruption.

The joyful reaction to the

news of an army coup shows how hated the regime of President Traore, a general who seized power in 1968, had become.

The day before the people of Benin were able, for the first time in Africa, to show their hatred of their long-serving dictator, President Mathieu Kerekou, through the ballot box. Despite his efforts during the past year to "democratise" himself, they preferred Nicéphore Soglo, the prime minister installed by Mr Kerekou last year to salvage Benin's bankrupt economy.

The populations in many African countries, especially the former French colonies, have begun to rebel against their regimes in the last two years. The sight of revolt in East Europe contributed to the desperation felt by the great number of young that they had no future after education, while their rulers appeared to be lining their pockets year after year.

Then presidents could no longer, as Mr Traore did, order security forces to shoot people at the first sign of trouble. Last year President Mitterrand openly disapproved of such tactics, where once the considerable number of French administrators still in countries like Mali would have turned a blind eye in the name of "stability".



Leader's salute: Begum Khalida Zia, the first woman prime minister of Bangladesh, acknowledging a cheering 70,000-strong crowd yesterday at the Dhaka national stadium where, in her first official duty, she opened a children's rally to celebrate the nation's 20th independence day

## Near-bankrupt India goes shopping for money

From CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA is searching the industrialised world for money, so humiliating and desperate has its economic plight become after 16 months of political upheaval. By June the country will be completely out of foreign exchange, raising the spectre of petrol rationing and even tighter controls on imports. That would be a certain recipe for yet

more political turmoil. With a general election scheduled for late May, there is no government in Delhi capable of negotiating with the International Monetary Fund or other lending agencies. Consequently, India has used diplomatic channels informally to ask Britain, the United States, France, Germany, Japan and at least four other governments for emergency assistance. Never before has

India made such approaches or been in such need of foreign exchange. The Delhi bureaucracy is to a large extent working on its own initiative to save the country from bankruptcy, since there is little political guidance while politicians are preoccupied with the general election.

The high cost of the poll will place severe additional burdens on the economy and again strain the coun-

try's political structure. Another hung parliament could plunge the country into its greatest instability.

The IMF gave a \$1.8 billion loan two months ago, which was regarded as a reward for India's support on the Gulf. Soon afterwards, however, the unfamiliar warmth between Washington and Delhi returned to its customary chill when India banned the refuelling of Gulf-bound aircraft.

## China's deficit breaks limits

From CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

WANG Bingqian, China's finance minister, revealed in his annual budget speech yesterday that the 1990 deficit was some 70 per cent bigger than planned. Mr Wang said that state finances were being drained by propping up state-run enterprises to maintain social stability.

Chinese leaders have often given warnings of mass unrest if there were food shortages, big price rises or extensive unemployment. The state, Mr Wang said, had had to "help bail out enterprises that suspended or partly suspended production and allocate funds for maintaining the basic living standards of their workers and staff". The state had spent more than \$9 billion on subsidies to state-run enterprises in compensation for their losses and price rises.

Mr Wang said that a similar failure to fulfil budget targets in the year ahead "would produce a very unfortunate impact on continued political and economic stability".

Meanwhile, military spending has been increased by about 11 per cent.

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## Murder of a black veteran disappoints US crime crusaders

From SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

THE murder of a Detroit street of a young soldier who served in the Gulf war had the makings of a runaway political issue. The American media, members of Congress and the Rev Jesse Jackson seized on it as an example of the insanity of America's crime levels and of inadequate official response.

A week later, however, many of these social commentators have had to eat their words, as the apparent random killing has turned into a tale of marital strife unconnected to the underworld of drugs and crime.

Army specialist Anthony Riggs, aged 22, was shot five times in the head in the small hours of March 18 — one day after returning home from a seven-month tour of duty at a Patriot missile site in Saudi Arabia. His wife, Toni, also aged 22, found him bleeding to death near a removal van into which he had been loading her belongings as he prepared to move her and their daughter, aged three, to a

military housing estate in a suburb. His car was missing, presumed stolen.

Riggs's death made national headlines as the tragedy of a patriotic black man who had survived enemy fire in the Gulf only to be shot down in a rough district of a city with one of America's worst crime rates. In Washington, which is generally slow to register events in other regions, the death was a hot topic since it came less than a fortnight after President Bush, sensitive to criticism of his domestic agenda, told an anti-crime conference that he wanted to make America's streets safe for the returning veterans.

The Washington Post ran a front-page article under the headline "A Soldier's Tragic Return". Donald Riegle, a Democratic senator from Michigan, referred to Riggs's killing as part of the larger social problem of the high murder rate of young black males. Even *The Detroit News*, which is accustomed to grisly murders, quoted a local

professor of criminal justice as saying: "Detroit is out of control. There's no doubt about it."

Mr Jackson, who is a potential Democratic candidate in the 1992 presidential elections, flew to Detroit to console the soldier's family and later conducted a Baptist memorial service.

Since then, however, the people of Detroit have been taken aback by developments. First, Riggs's car was found less than two miles from the scene of the crime, while detectives found a handgun in a dustbin near an aunt's house. Now the city's homicide squad considers the wife a suspect, according to police quoted in yesterday's *Detroit Free Press*.

The Detroit police force took the unusual step yesterday of calling a press conference to announce, it is expected, murder charges against Riggs's brother-in-law, aged 19. Mrs Riggs herself was taken in for questioning on Monday but was released after several hours, thanks to her lawyer's intervention.

Friends and family of the dead man have sketched a picture of domestic discord culminating in Mrs Riggs asking her husband for a divorce when she greeted him on his return from the Gulf earlier this month on the tarmac of Fort Bliss, Texas.



Unhappy first family: Zulema Yoma is alleging adultery, physical cruelty and incompatibility in her divorce suit against President Menem of Argentina

## Menem will contest divorce

From MICHAEL SOLTYS IN BUENOS AIRES

ZULEMA Yoma, the former first lady of Argentina, is to file a divorce suit today against President Menem for infidelity, physical cruelty and incompatibility. She said she regretted that she could not have talked the matter over first with the Pope. He is to contest the divorce.

The scandal comes amid family problems and political difficulties for the Menems. This month, two of the Yoma brothers and the presidential audience secretary, Amira Yoma, the only member of the family still employed by Señor Menem, were accused of laundering \$10 million (£5.9 million) a month. The allegations were made by a Spanish drug trafficker arrested in Cape Verde and linked to the Ochoa ring in Colombia.

President Menem's government, which contests mid-term elections in September, has just launched a bold economic plan making the austral currency convertible against the dollar and taking index-linking out of the economy after monthly inflation reached 27 per cent in February. The plan is certain to exacerbate labour unrest. A national railway strike is now in its sixth week.

Last month, Señor Menem spent successive weekends in Benedictine and Trappist monasteries meditating on his problems.

## Market link-up in Latin America

From LOUISE BYRNE IN RIO DE JANEIRO

THE presidents of Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay met in the Paraguayan capital, Asunción, yesterday to sign a treaty to create the region's first common market. It is hoped that Mercosul, the Southern Cone Common Market, will be fully operational by 1995. It will allow for free trade between the four countries and set common tax duties for imports from outside the region.

Some 60 per cent of the territory of Latin America, with a population of 200 million people, will be covered by Mercosul, which has been created in an attempt to increase production and make investment in the region more attractive to outside countries. The four countries, all of whom have gained democratic governments within the last 10 years, hold a total foreign debt of \$190 billion (£108 billion).

The new trade area comes in addition to bilateral economic agreements already signed by Brazil and Argentina. Brazil, the country with the highest population and the strongest economy, stands to benefit most from this new pact, while Uruguay will probably be chosen as its financial centre. Four of the five Andean Pact countries, Bolivia, Peru, Venezuela and Colombia, have agreed to drop trade tariffs.

## TV chiefs bet on lust and law

Bedroom tales and courtroom drama are what Americans viewers crave, says Charles Bremner in New York

UNABLE to decide whether Americans prefer to get their entertainment thrills from sex or litigation, broadcasting executives in the United States are betting heavily on both in a wave of shows that break new ground in the field of vicarious titillation, from the courtroom to the bedroom.

Taking their cue from the huge success of such romantic films as *Pretty Woman* and *Ghost*, the networks are eschewing the old-style menu of blood and crime for programmes based on the rituals of love and dating.

Romance shows have been around since the *Dating Game* appeared in 1966. That was followed by the highly successful *Love Connection*, in which someone chooses a dining partner from three videos and then returns to be goaded into embarrassing confessions by a master of ceremonies. But that seems prim alongside the most purulent of the new broadcasts, *Studs*.

In the programme, launched this month by the Fox network, two men both take out the same three women. The unspoken ground rules assume they go to bed. After the six dates, all five report back to the studio where they are grilled in front of a cheering studio audience. "Which of the two men is most likely to fall asleep after sex?" asks the MC, and: "Which man is most likely to wear women's clothing?"

In the opening show, Kim, aged 23, a cocktail waitress, thought that Tom, aged 26, an assistant in the music business, was less likely to fall asleep and more likely to have worn women's clothing. "Whoa!" cried the audience. One woman stirred the crowd by observing: "It's not the size of the

tongue, it's how you use it."

"It's simple and elegant," said Stephen Chao, Fox vice-president in charge of the show. *The Washington Post's* television critic suggested that *Studs* was already behind the times. With amateur video widely shown in shows such as *America's Funniest Home Videos*, the *Studs* people should just have provided cameras to the couples so that they could "return to the studio with excruciatingly humiliating photographic evidence in hand," he said.

Competing with *Studs* in the genre of voyeurism, as the critics are calling it, is *Love Stories*, made by Warner Brothers, and *Boy Meets Girl* on CBS, both featuring couples recounting intimate details of their affair.

Hedging their bets, the networks are also launching several variations on the old courtroom theme pioneered by Perry Mason and *LA Law*. These join existing daily replays of trials in *People's Court*, *Superior Court*, *Divorce Court* and *The Judge*.

With juicy real-life trials now drawing huge television audiences, it was only natural that someone would come up with the idea of a channel devoted to litigation. Court TV, a cable channel, is to open in July, offering 24-hour coverage for trial junkies.

It was only a small imaginative step for the studios to combine the law directly with love and sex. Steven Bochco, the creator of *LA Law*, is working on a trial show about divorce called *Civil Wars* and CBS is also devising a series on the theme. According to the *Wall Street Journal*, the network sent scouts to hunt down ideas as the recent convention of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers.

## New York teenagers turn on to the beep

From CHARLES BREMNER IN NEW YORK

WHEN schoolboy met girl in the old days, they might share a milkshake or fix a date at the cafeteria. These days they exchange beeper numbers. Like speakers, hula hoops and yoyos in years gone by, electronic pagers have become a craze for New York teenagers, many of whom say they cannot imagine life without personal communications.

"The girls don't want to know you if you haven't got a beeper on your belt," Scott Powell, a pupil at a Manhattan school said as he took a call at a bus stop. At the Cathedral High School, a girl's institution in the upper West Side, where pupils still wear old-fashioned uniforms, they tolerate the fad for practical reasons.

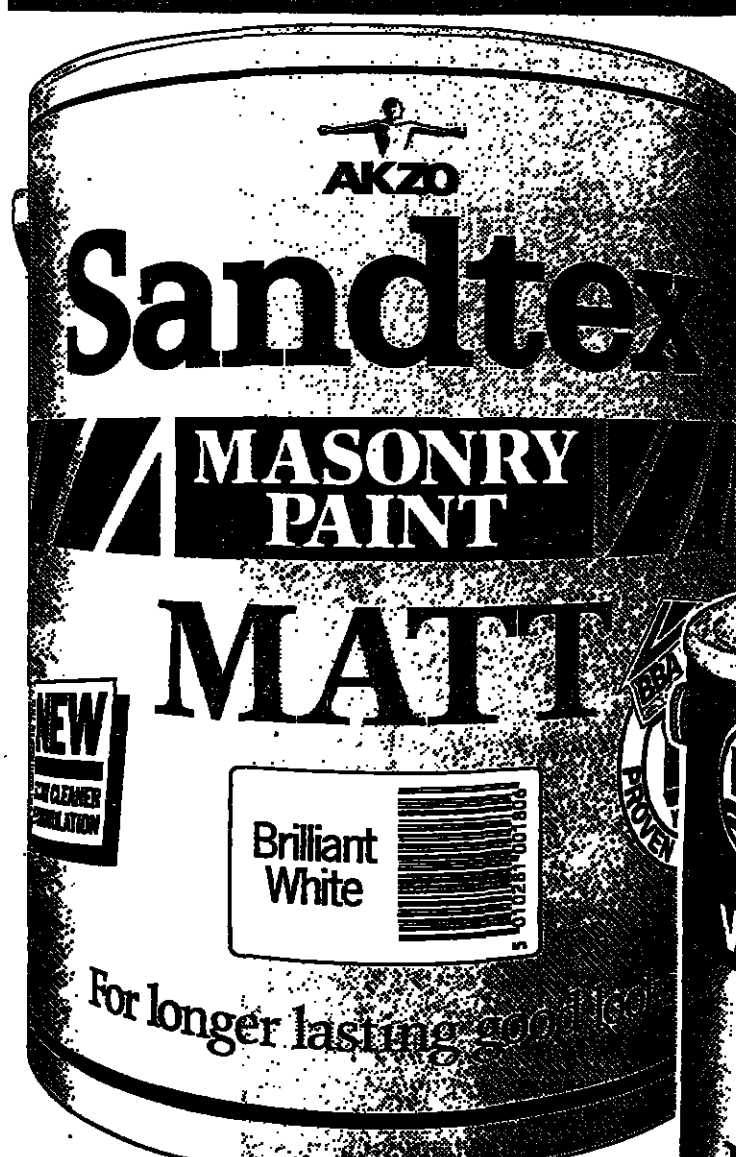
"There are a lot of legitimate uses, though we don't encourage our students to display them," said Sister Mary Kilmartin, the principal.

Caroline Mendes, aged 16, said half the girls in her class carried beepers. "More and more girls are getting them. If you go to a club on Friday night, that's all you'll see — boys with beepers and girls with beepers," she told *The New York Times*.

Although dismissed by many elders as an audible fashion as annoying as Walkman headphones, the defenders of beepers say they are a useful security aid. Parents are giving their children pagers so they can check on their whereabouts, particularly at night.

Parents might note that the fad is unlikely to catch on in Europe because pagers assume the presence of a nearby telephone. In American cities, you are rarely more than a few paces from a working public telephone. Not even the most enthusiastic PR person from British Telecom would claim that for Britain.

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# Soviet miners defy parliament's order for return to work

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

THE Soviet parliament yesterday ordered hundreds of thousands of striking miners back to work for two months, citing the danger of "irreparable damage" to an economy whose output was falling before the dispute.

Strike leaders, who embarked on industrial action three weeks ago in areas ranging from the Arctic circle to the Far East, pledged to defy the parliamentary ban, despite threats of mass sackings and fines.

A resolution invoking parliament's right to call a temporary halt to strikes was approved by a comfortable majority of MPs, who earlier received a message from Valentin Pavlov, the prime minister, emphasising the fragile state of the economy. He said that gross domestic product for January and February was down by 10 per cent on the previous year.

The resolution, proposed by a backbench MP, Vladimir Samarin, said an "emergency situation" had arisen in the economy as a result of the coal strike. The worst damage reported had been in the metal industry, particularly the steel sector, where a 35 per cent drop in coke deliveries had forced several blast furnaces to close. Mr Pavlov said the effects were being felt at power stations and on the railway system.



Pavlov: stoppage hurting power and railways

which claims support in all the key coal industry areas. A similar pledge was made by Vyacheslav Tulan, a strike leader in Vorkuta, where protests initially focused on economic aims, but have become increasingly politicised after a delegation from the Arctic failed to secure a meeting with Mr Pavlov in Moscow.

In a fresh sign of the huge prestige enjoyed by Mr Yeltsin among the miners, Mr Tulan said they were responding sympathetically to the Russian leader's call for the resumption of coke supplies to a huge local steel mill, to avoid closure of its furnace. He said local miners had loaded the coke on to wagons and would send it as soon as they were satisfied there was an acute coke shortage at the mill.

Parliament adopted the resolution after an emotional debate in which conservatives called for the prosecution of politicians who back the strike, while a member of the fledgling Social Democratic Party called for President Gorbachev to heed the demand for his resignation. David Kugimov, a distinguished Central Asian poet, backed the strike ban on the grounds that food shortages and illnesses due to malnutrition were already starting to make an appearance. "We can see the signs of looming famine," he said.



Pit stop: striking Siberian miners taking a rest after reaching agreement with Mikhail Shchadov, the Soviet coal minister, on a return to work

## Wives hold key to pit victory

FROM ROBERT SEELY IN DONETSK

STRIKE leaders at the October mine in the Ukraine's vast Donbass coalfield yesterday gathered round a bulky radio to hear the latest BBC Russian Service reports on the stoppage's progress throughout the Soviet Union.

From the dingy office used to co-ordinate the month-old strike, the men rejected as "provocations" appeals for them to return to work from metallurgical workers and railwaymen's leaders broadcast by Soviet state radio.

The October mine, built in the 1950s and only a 10-minute drive from the centre of Donetsk, was one of the first to stop work after the region's unofficial union leaders called for a one-day stoppage at the beginning of

March. For the workers there, and at the other 58 mines which strikers claim are supporting demands for higher pay and an end to President Gorbachev's government, the outlook is harsh.

The only source of family income is the wives' wages, sometimes only half their husbands' earnings. Valeri Markich, one of the leaders, said: "The men have no money and no prospect of any."

Twelve tonnes of food aid from the Baltic republics arrived last week and was split between invalid miners, families whose husbands were killed in mine accidents, and families with young children.

In Moscow, people are collecting money for the miners on strike throughout the

country and we are in touch with them every day. It was a decision of the Donbass miners to begin the strike and we are willing to carry it through to the end," he said.

Wives are perhaps the most important and least talked-about element of the strike. Many work in the pits or in related work, and when their support for their husbands wanes so will the strike.

Yanina Khvorostyannaya, aged 70, has a husband and two sons in the mine and she means the outdated lifts of one of the two shafts, working from an olive-green shack full of greasy steaming pipes and obsolete equipment. She said she supported the strike. "It is very difficult for people to live and work in these conditions.

Everyone seems to be against us, but no one sees what we have to put up with."

"The wife of my youngest son, Sergei, is studying now and when she finishes college, she will come and work in the mine as well. I still work to help support my grandchildren. We have a 20 square yards flat which nine of us must share."

Petr Moiseyenko, a miner, said that the women understood what their husbands were fighting for. "The wives are behind us, and after April 2, when Gorbachev's latest economic reforms will push food prices up, I think they will be all the more determined because of the effect it will have on our living standards."

Although only one pit in five in the Donbass region is on strike, some steel mills have already shut due to lack of power. In Donetsk, a city of 1.5 million people built on coal, the strike is almost total, with only three mines out of 21 working.

The miners' demands vary from pit to pit, but always include the resignation of President Gorbachev, and in many cases that of the entire membership of the Soviet Union's Supreme Soviet as well. The central demand is for a 150 per cent pay increase.

The demand to oust Mr Gorbachev may seem far-fetched, but gypsies in the Ukraine have a new saying: "If Gorbachev stays in power another four years, they will give their horses gold teeth."

## Yugoslav leaders reach deal

Belgrade - Franjo Tudjman, the Croatian president, and Slobodan Milosevic, his Serbian counterpart and arch-rival in Yugoslavia's grave political crisis, have announced the setting of a two-month deadline to avert the threatened break-up of the country by making personnel and policy changes.

Their statement came after more than four hours of secret talks at the border between their two republics. A Croatian spokesman said they had discussed calling for changes in the federal cabinet but details would not be released immediately. Relations between communist-led Serbia and nationalist Croatia have deteriorated recently. An accord between them is considered a key to ending the arguments over Yugoslavia's future. (Reuters)

## Singapore hijack

Singapore - Security forces surrounded a Singapore Airlines jet carrying 129 passengers and crew from Malaysia when it landed at Changi international airport. Four people, said to be Pakistanis, were understood to have hijacked the plane, making unspecified demands. (AP)

## File 'destroyed'

Sofia - The file on the Bulgarian dissident writer, Georgi Markov, killed in London with a poisoned umbrella 13 years ago, has been destroyed by interior ministry officials, according to Bulgarian television. It named three generals in the ministry who were allegedly responsible for the move. (Reuters)

## Moldavia debate

Bucharest - Adrian Nastase, the Romanian foreign minister, has called for a public discussion on future ties with the Soviet republic of Moldavia, which Moscow seized from Romania in 1940. But he urged Romanians not to be pushed into seeking an immediate German-style unification. (Reuters)

## Field day

Bucharest - A Romanian farmer has dug up a tractor which he buried 36 years ago to stop Communist officials from seizing it and plans to put the machine back into use. He packed the German-made tractor in preservative grease before burying it during a collectivisation drive in the 1950s. (Reuters)

## Moscow spurns Gorbachev ban

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY AND BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

TENSION in the Soviet capital mounted yesterday as Moscow city council and radical groups said they would proceed with a demonstration planned for tomorrow, in defiance of a central government ban. President Gorbachev added to the radicals' fury by announcing the formation of a new central police department to keep order in Moscow, cutting through a long-running dispute between the city and the Soviet interior ministry about the city's policing.

Tomorrow's demonstration

is timed to coincide with the opening of an emergency session of the full Russian parliament, the Congress of People's Deputies, at which the Russian leader, Boris Yeltsin, is expected to come under pressure from Communist deputies to resign.

Unconfirmed reports in the city's independent press spoke of military hardware, including armoured personnel carriers, being moved into the city to prevent demonstrations.

An unexpected intervention in the dispute came from Vadim Bakatin, former in-

terior minister and a newly appointed member of President Gorbachev's Security Council. He said he thought a ban on Thursday's demonstration was "unnecessary" and might be viewed as a provocation.

Mr Bakatin's appearance before the press, his first since his dismissal four months ago, may have been intended to show the doubting West that Mr Gorbachev was still not deaf to the liberal cause and had not turned as conclusively to the hardliners as is commonly believed.

## EC tries to close ranks on defence

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN LUXEMBOURG

EUROPEAN foreign ministers met in private last night to try to resolve their wide differences over the future defence of Europe.

The informal meeting in a castle near here was called at the request of the foreign minister of The Netherlands, Hans van den Broek, who would like his colleagues to settle whether Europe wants to reshape its existing military alliance with America or begin to disengage from it. Mr van den Broek said last night that The Netherlands still opposed putting nine of NATO's European members under any kind of EC authority.

The Dutch government has become increasingly alarmed by the tone of the defence debate during the commu-

nity's negotiations on further political integration. Jacques Delors, the European Commission's president, backed by France and Italy, wants the EC gradually to acquire the powers and resources to run its own defence.

Mr van den Broek, partly supported by Britain and Portugal, believes this would erode America's commitment to NATO, on which the defence of Europe ultimately rests. Washington, which has long supported both European integration and higher defence spending in Europe, has given mixed signals in the past about what sort of improved European defence it would like. Bush administration officials have recently made clear that they are against any

scheme likely to weaken NATO and which sets up decision-making bodies excluding America. The German position is unclear.



Delors: community must control its own defence

In a speech in Brussels last night, Sir Leon Brittan, Britain's senior European commissioner, outlined one of the many possible compromises. A "European defence community" should be set up, he said, "using EC institutions but not exactly the same as the EC". This would provide the flexibility to deal with neutral countries either now inside the community or likely to become members soon. Sir Leon also argued the armaments business should be included in the European single market of 1992.

The most widely favoured short-term scheme for building a European defence community is to attach the little-used Western European Union (WEU) to the EC.

PARIS NOTEBOOK by Philip Jacobson

## Bitter pill for pharmacists to swallow

For reasons that no outsider can ever establish satisfactorily, there is keen and abiding hostility among the French towards those who run high street pharmacies. In a nation profoundly obsessed with the state of bowels, liver, kidneys and more besides, you might think that the dispensers of pills, powders and potions would enjoy high standing in the community.

On the contrary, the supposed rapacity of the average pharmacist is taken for granted: if dinner table gossip can be believed, they outdo even farmers and restaurant owners in piling up wealth and evading tax upon it.

Small wonder, then, that the supermarket chain of Edouard Leclerc enjoys warm support wherever it has a go at the prices charged in pharmacies. Its current campaign, launched in six national newspapers, points out how much cheaper it is to buy over the counter at Leclerc. This robust line in knocking

copy - or publicist comparison - is not widely employed in France: it could even become illegal if a draft law now being prepared for consideration gets through the National Assembly.

The Leclerc chain has also set about French bakers over the price charged for the

The price has given me a bigger headache



classic 250-gramme baguette. The enraged bakers promptly went to law, claiming damages and immediate cessation of a "disloyal and

menacious campaign of denigration". Watch this space.

When good Muslims die in France, next of kin usually face the choice of allowing them to be interred in a manner that does not accord with the Koran or paying for the body to be sent home for proper burial. Although upwards of three million Muslims now live here, it transpires that there is only one cemetery exclusively reserved, as the Koran dictates, for the followers of Islam.

Successive governments have been wrestling with the problem of providing more cemeteries for Muslims without offending France's established tradition of laicism in this respect.

Further complicating matters, says a new interior ministry report, is the Koranic requirement that Muslims should be buried facing Mecca and in a simple shroud as opposed to a coffin.

In the best traditions of

official buck-passing, the report concludes by urging mayors of individual communes to work out their own solution.

From time to time, an edict appears to announce the death of the French Intellectual (who always takes a capital I) and the end of rational thought. Nobody beyond the Left Bank takes much notice, and a new set of intellectuals soon appear to continue the great tradition of taking oneself immensely seriously over dinner in the right places.

But Bernard-Henri Lévy,

BHL to the knowledgeable, soldiers on, spraying out a seemingly endless stream of books, pamphlets and opinions on the burning issues of life on the fashionable left. Unsurprisingly, the state-owned television network gave BHL the prize job of preparing a definitive history of French intellectuals for a four-part documentary.

It is unclear at what point he will be introducing his own seminal contribution, and also why Yves Saint-Laurent's name appears on the programme credits.

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**MEDIA & MARKETING APPOINTMENTS APPEARS TODAY PAGES 32 AND 33**



Nicholas Ridley

## Lawson killed my baby

Major's government has made a number of decisions since it took over. One is the decision to give priority within the exchange-rate mechanism to maintaining parity for the pound, rather than to domestic stability. Another is the decision to index child benefit in future. A third is the decision to end mortgage interest relief for higher rate taxpayers. A fourth was the decision to switch £4.5 billion from the community charge to VAT, and a fifth was the decision to replace the community charge with the new property and people tax.

There are good reasons why thinking Tories oppose many or even all of these decisions. Those who do have been remarkably restrained, in the interests of giving the new government a fair wind, while naturally recording their concern in as constructive way as possible. They have made no personal criticisms.

To Nigel Lawson, at least three of these decisions are clearly welcome. He has not told us his view of the child benefit decision. He is clearly critical of the switch of £4.5 billion to VAT. But for years he has wanted us to have the "discipline" of the ERM, and I know he is no friend of mortgage interest relief. He is also on record as wanting a property tax instead of community charge.

So why did he make such a vicious swipe in his speech on Monday, when he suggested the government might "appear to be unable to govern"? Should he not be pleased with the way his own former chief secretary, John Major, has followed in his footsteps on so many of the policies about which Mr Lawson feels strongly?



6 He dislikes the charge so much that even as a colleague in government he tried to wound it at birth

In his speech on Monday he was seeking to justify two of those policies: his longing for fixed exchange rates within the ERM, and his preference for a local property tax over the community charge.

Many people think the policy of shadowing the mark, which Nigel Lawson began in 1987 and which has since been cemented by our ERM membership, is the main cause of our economic distress. It caused him to lower interest rates in 1988 to prevent the pound depreciating below DM3. This was the direct cause of the recent inflationary "blip". As the pound rose, it caused him to raise interest rates to 15 per cent in October 1989, which was the direct cause of the severe recession we are now experiencing.

The ERM is preventing the new chancellor, Mr Lamont, from lowering interest rates as quickly as he should, so prolonging the squeeze, even though the money supply is clearly inadequate in present conditions. Many would say that Nigel Lawson has some self-vindicating to do in relation to his conduct of monetary policy.

As he keeps telling us, Mr Lawson never liked the idea of departing from the rates as a form of local taxation. He dislikes the community charge so much that even as a colleague in government he tried to wound it at birth. I had to launch the community charge with inadequate revenue support grant. Every year since 1979, the government had cut the rate support grant. By 1989 it was £1.2 billion less (at 1989 prices) than it had been in 1979, and this against a background of constantly rising local spending. The amount to be raised, whether for rates or community charge, was greater than either tax could bear without hardship to the less well-off who had to pay. That was why the cabinet decided to abolish the rates.

In his speech on Monday, Mr Lawson glossed over this vital fact, and went on to say: "It is the nature of the poll tax that makes you unable to bear that burden... Rates could bear such a burden." In my view neither could bear that burden, because neither took sufficient heed of ability to pay. Either one could bear the burden only if property related down the income scale. The average couple would have paid £860 in rates this year, we are told: little different from the community charge they actually have to pay. Since Nigel Lawson was determined not to provide sufficient revenue support grant, it is little wonder that the community charges were so high (nearly twice as much as was expected when I was at the environment department).

The rebate system, which was designed for community charges of about £250, could never cope with charges as high as £400 or more. My successor obtained a further £3 billion from Nigel Lawson. But instead of going into the rebate system, which would have brought the tax into line with ability to pay at these levels, this money went into various transitional schemes, which did not relieve those on incomes between £100 and £200 per week, who were hurt most. So the poor were overtaxed and the rich felt guilty about not paying enough. At the same time, Mr Lawson reduced the top rate of income tax to 40 per cent, adding salt to the wounds of the less well off. It was as if having lost the battle for a local property tax, he was determined to make the community charge as unpopular as possible.

The solution has not changed. A further £4.25 billion is available. Why not put it into rebates? This is the best solution, but it is shunned by those whose only objective is to scrap the system altogether.

Mr Lawson may seek to justify his actions on both counts, but there is no need to accuse the government of being unable to govern.

...and moreover

## CRAIG BROWN

It may be that there is some one so other-worldly that he has never seen the Mr Men in books or on a mug, on video or on a T-shirt, a pencil-sharpener or a toothbrush. So, just in case the Dalai Lama is browsing through this column, perhaps I should explain.

The Mr Men were invented by the late Roger Hargreaves, who cleverly turned a limited drawing style into his greatest asset. They are divinely simple creations, readily understood by two-year-olds, perfectly reproduced by three-year-olds. Their appeal lies in their expansion of a single human characteristic into an entire being, giving us Mr Tickle (with two long arms), Mr Greedy (very fat), Mr Messy (messy) and so on. There are now hundreds of Mr Men, ranging from Mr Bump (handaged, always bumping into things) to Mr Small.

My two-and-a-half-year-old daughter is mad about the Mr Men. When not howling with laughter at the books, she is urging us to overcome our middle-class scruples and to put on her Mr Men video, narrated in blissfully dead-pan style by the late Arthur Lowe. Throughout the day, we keep her going on the books until around six o'clock in the evening, when we start the video. We try to switch from one video to another as much as possible, so that she waits eagerly for the first hint of which it is to be. She then yells with joy, "Mr... Messy!" or "Mr... Bump!"

When our video is switched off, the screen reverts to what

ever is being shown on BBC1. As we only let our daughter watch ten minutes of the Mr Men, we invariably end up ten minutes into the BBC's *Six O'Clock News*, which has, ever since the end of the Gulf war, largely featured Mr Major or Mr Lamont, or both at the same time. First, our daughter would kick up a fuss when her Mr Men were replaced by poll tax news, but she soon ceased to worry, watching with rapt interest as Mr Major emerged each day, bespectacled and half-smiling, from No 10.

For a time, I could not understand her new interest in current affairs. It was only when she started to yell "Mr... Major!" and "Mr... Lamont!" that I realised she now considers the two programmes — Mr Men and *The Six O'Clock News* — as all part of the same entertainment. To her, Mr Major and Mr Lamont were simply two new Mr Men, whose expressions — smiling, half-smiling, not smiling at all — and whose actions — going into No 10, coming out of No 10, standing behind a box and being shouted at by lots of other Mr Men — were sketched with the same delightful simplicity that Roger Hargreaves applied to all his creations.

I am now thinking of jettisoning the real Mr Men for any programme with parliamentary coverage. This would have two advantages: the Westminster cast is more numerous, and it is not yet lumbered with such by-products as a Mr Lamont toothbrush or a Mr Major mug. I doubt if my daughter will miss the real Mr Men, for every

one of them has his exact counterpart in the House. Among them are Mr Greedy, the Member for Rochdale; Mr Uppity, the Member for Old Bexley and Sidcup; Mr Smarmy, the Home Secretary; Mr Bump, the Member for Edinburgh Leith; Mr Loopy, the Member for Chesterfield; Little Miss Smarmy-pants, the Member for Derbyshire South; and Mr Chubby, the Member for Blaby.

The one character who has not caught on with my daughter, despite frequent appearances, is Mr Kinnock. Frankly, she cannot get the hang of him at all. I suspect that this might have something to do with his uncanny similarity to Hargreaves's least satisfactory character, Mr Messy. Messy was once a lovely rascal who allowed himself to be subjected to a spring-clean by a Mr Neat and a Mr Tidy. Scrubbed and cleaned and kitted out in a smart new suit, he ends up having lost his identity, just grinning like a chump. All the other Mr Men succeed because their idiosyncracies are exaggerated for the general amusement; only Mr Messy tries to be what he is not.

As I watch my daughter's face go blank when Mr Kinnock comes on the screen, trying to look statesmanlike in yet another double-breasted suit with big white cuffs, I want to point him to this moral: to catch on as a Mr Men, or as an MP, you must first allow yourself to become your own caricature; but do be sure that the caricature is based upon yourself, and not on make-believe.

# The final turkey shoot

Michael Evans, defence correspondent, asks whether the allied attack on fleeing Iraqi troops at Mutla Ridge was really necessary



Highway graveyard: the trapped convoy of Iraqi vehicles attacked as they were fleeing Kuwait

defence staff next week, admits that having achieved the liberation of Kuwait, the allies would rightly have been called to account if they had continued what was "more and more like butchery". He remains convinced that President Bush was right to stop the fighting. If there was to be some degree of magnanimity, the allies could not afford "more Mutla Ridge".

War leads to acts of great personal courage, of professionalism and heroism; but it also entails suffering, death, fear and destruction. There were many horrific sights during the brief war with Iraq. British soldiers came across Iraqis who had lost limbs, and bodies charred from burning fuel inside crippled tanks.

But Mutla Ridge was different. Was it justified? The Iraqis were clearly trying to escape. There was not a withdrawal, but a rush

for home. So why the carnage? As the convoy of tanks, tank-transports, four-tonne trucks, buses, cars, vans and lorries drove out of Kuwait City towards the mountain pass at Mutla Ridge, the only military question was: were the Iraqis planning to regroup for a counter-attack at the border?

General Norman Schwarzkopf, the American commander, had publicly stated that the allies would not attack Iraqis in retreat. But here was a convoy, part of which was armed and capable of mounting an attack. Even though the first two days of the land war had demonstrated Iraq's unwillingness to fight, even though thousands had already surrendered, the convoy moving out of Kuwait City appeared to represent a potential threat. There had also been a shift in allied policy. General Schwarzkopf told Iraqi

soldiers they must leave their guns and tanks behind if they wanted to leave Kuwait.

General Schwarzkopf and his field commanders based their campaign on the need to reduce the risk of allied casualties. The fleeing Iraqis, armed with guns, as well as stolen merchandise, could have inflicted casualties as they came up against allied units which had swept across Kuwait and southern Iraq. That was the justification for attacking them, even though they appeared to be following thousands of their colleagues in trying to escape the battlefield.

Brigadier Patrick Cordingley, commander of the British 7th Armoured Brigade and the first to admit that he was distressed by what he saw at Mutla Ridge,

reminded me that the Iraqis in the convoy had devastated the Kuwait capital. Kuwaiti citizens had been tortured and killed. Homes had been plundered.

Judgements are easy to make with hindsight. But it is difficult to understand why the American bombers were ordered to destroy everything moving up that highway. Once the pass had been cut off, there was nowhere for the Iraqis to go. They were trapped and capable of nothing but surrender. The allied plan was to destroy Iraqi tanks and other armoured vehicles. But the lasting impression at Mutla Ridge is of the mangled remains of private cars. It was the final "turkey shoot" of the war, and, in retrospect, unwarranted. Further carnage would have been politically insupportable and terrible publicity. President Bush knew it.

Military censorship encroaches on traditional freedoms, whatever the justification, says Ronald Dworkin

## No news is bad news for democracy

The Gulf war is already a mythic event. President Bush said it washed the stain of Vietnam from America's shield, but there is a risk that the military success, and its consequent popularity, will be taken to have vindicated the unjustifiable extension of censorship.

The greatest risk, I believe, is that an argument for censorship will be thought legitimate. This argument is that government may properly manipulate public opinion in order to prevent the public from criticising the war or its conduct. Of course, censorship with that aim is defended not on the grounds that officials are entitled to protect their political positions, but on the more insidious grounds that a supportive public is a great military advantage, that a nation can pursue a war more effectively, win more quickly and with fewer of its soldiers dead and wounded when the public is on its side.

This argument has always been popular, but it is now more widely accepted than ever before. It is now orthodox Pentagon thinking that America lost the Vietnam war

because television said the generals were liars, that the war could not be won, and that American forces burned innocent civilians. In 1984 Casper Weinberger, then secretary of defence, laid down this policy: "Before the US commits combat forces abroad, there must be some reasonable assurance we will have the support of the American people and their representatives in Congress."

The basis of this policy is strong. As Vietnam proved, regional war is not all or nothing. A divided and shocked public produces a climate of compromise in which military action is not cancelled or abandoned, but is pursued half-heartedly, with (as President Bush several times put it) one hand tied behind one's back. Moreover, the military danger of adverse public opinion was even greater in the Gulf than in Vietnam, because the generals had to fear the impact of bad news or horrifying images not only in America or Britain, but in the Arab world.

But if that is taken to license censorship of information about military mistakes or civilian casualties, or — equally dangerous — if it is taken to require self-censorship by the media, then the scope of censorship justified on military grounds is much expanded.

Of course, General Schwarzkopf was right to prevent television crews from filming the coming of his troops back to the Iraqis' defences, a manoeuvre that the Iraqis, without air power, could not see for themselves. But the military justification was used for censorship of much more than operational information.

The basis of the censorship was the pool system of reporting, which gave the army control not only over what was written, but who wrote it, so giving the military power to punish papers and channels which carried reports it did not like. A distinguished journalist who was bureau chief in the desert for *The New York Times* was livid at the discrimination against his influential paper.

There are reports too of a blanket prohibition of coverage of medical treatment for wounded soldiers on their return to America.

Substantial sections of the home front were ready, even anxious, to

be manipulated. Truth may be the first casualty of war, but some people's desire to be told the truth is a close second. One of the most depressing of the phenomena of war censorship is the speed with which irresponsible and frightened editors and politicians began to refer to honest reporting as a kind of treason.

For instance, Peter Arnett, reporting as best he could from Baghdad for CNN, was compared with Lord Haw Haw because he passed on Iraqi claims about civilian destruction and indicated how far the evidence he was allowed to see — he scrupulously described the constraints on his own coverage — seemed to support the claims.

The victory was so swift and comprehensive that censorship designed to control public opinion was probably irrelevant in this case. But the precedent is harmful, because it expresses the attitude that produced the violations of the civil rights of Palestinians and Iraqis living in Britain: the attitude that in war even a notional benefit to military efficiency justifies any invasion of freedoms. When the generals control the

press in order to control public opinion, they are cheating on democracy. The people have a right — even a duty — to make up their own minds about what they should be impressed or frightened or appalled by a war, or whether it is tolerable that their armies should risk bombing innocent civilians in air raid shelters. If the government believes that strategy justifies risking substantial numbers of civilian deaths, it should make its case and take its chance with opinion polls and parliamentary attacks and peace demonstrations and post-mortem elections.

No doubt even a just war can be prosecuted more efficiently and with fewer losses if government does not have to worry about such opposition. But unless survival is at stake, war should not trump democracy. We are no democrats if we trust the people only when the stakes are low.

The author is professor of jurisprudence at Oxford University. This is an edited version of an article published in next month's *Index on Censorship*, which is devoted to the Gulf war.

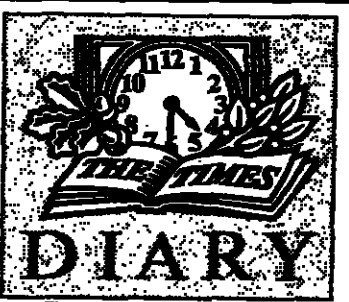
## Can pay, but won't pay

The militants are alive and well... in the Tory camp. Douglas Mason, who invented the poll tax and who continues to act as an adviser to a government minister, has called for a campaign of mass non-payment of the tax with which the Tories intend to replace the unpopular charge. Mason, who in 1985 wrote the Adam Smith Institute paper *Revising the Rating System*, which became the government's blueprint for the poll tax, is appalled by the possibility of a new property tax.

"I will pay only what the poll tax would have been, and withhold any difference. Thousands of other people will and should do the same," he says. His remarks seem certain to get him into hot water. Mason is political researcher to Allan Stewart, the junior Scottish Office minister with responsibility for the poll tax north of the border. "If a property tax is introduced, it will hit thousands of middle-class couples who have learned the lessons of the anti-poll tax protest campaign. I suspect they will adopt the same strategy with a property tax, and I support them. Getting rid of the poll tax is like killing a child when it is one year old simply because it cannot walk or talk properly."

If Mason's call to middle-class rebellion does not seal his political fate, his attack on Michael Heseltine looks certain to do so. "He does not know what he is doing. He is a politician whose career hinges on grabbing a problem and writing the solution on the back of an envelope."

Mason, 60, who lives alone, has personally benefited from the poll tax. But his call to defend it and his refusal to pay its replacement have produced some wry smiles



among his colleagues. Last year he narrowly avoided court action after failing five months in arrears on the £325 charge due to Kirkcaldy district council. "This year I'm paid up in full," he insists.

● The most topical discussion at Monday's night's *Trotter Society* dinner concerned the proper activity for a former prime minister. The guest of honour, the governor of the Bank of England, recalled a conversation in which Lord Howe was asked his opinion. He should be able to advise for, after all, he once held that high office. "Did I?" replied his lordship in a style worthy of the Duke of Devonshire. "Good heavens, you're quite right. I do believe I did."

## Divided decade

A tale of two parties. Dr David Owen was conspicuous by his absence last night from the party to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the launch of the SDP. While the other three members of the Gang of Four — Shirley Williams, Bill Rodgers and Lord Jenkins of Hillhead — were among the hundred guests at the London home of founding member Sir William Goodhart, invitations were pointedly not issued to Owen and his two loyal lieutenants, John Cartwright and Rosie Barnes, the only other remaining SDP MPs.

"I don't think they would have come anyway," says Lady Good-

hart. Owen had his own celebration on Saturday night at a dinner at the House of Commons, to which no Liberal Democrats were invited. The parties were very much themed — as occasions, and we were not sure whether it was a wake or a celebration," says one close to him. Owen told guests at his bash that he was having difficulty thinking of a title for his forthcoming memoirs. "One suggestion I have heard is *Premature Ejaculation*," he said. If he had attended last night's party he might have heard some even ruder titles.

## Ewe bet

Racing's flat season is about to begin. No, not the sport of Pat Eddery and Lester Piggott, but flat racing for sheep. We have about 12 really fast sheep, including Red Ram, Alderbank, and Shearar," says Rick Turner, manager of a theme park devoted to sheep in Devon.



where the season begins over Easter. "They have been in training and we expect some racing early in the season."

However, Turner has ruled out the possibility of a steepchase version and a sheep Grand National. His beasts are better suited to jumpers than jumps, he fears. "But we will have a special week of sheep racing in June to coincide with Royal Ascot. They should be moving really well by then."

## Keeping score

Bulgaria's new ambassador to Britain will have his diplomatic skills put to the test tonight at Hampden Park, when Scotland meets Bulgaria in the home leg of its European cup qualifier. Ivan "Johnny" Stancioff may be the Bulgarian ambassador, but he has lived in Scotland for the past 10 years, and prior to his diplomatic posting ran his own computer company from his Scottish wife's family home in Aberdeen.

He is under no illusions about the seriousness with which the Scots take their football — not a matter of life and death, but far more important than that, as Bill Shankley put it. As an adopted Scot, the pressure on him will be strong to cheer for Andy Roxborough's team. But he will attend the match as Bulgaria's official government representative. Whom to support? "If you have never heard someone shouting for two different teams in two different languages at the same time, I suggest you come to the match," Stancioff says.

● The world of whisky drinkers is about to be struck by what might be termed the bottle of the sexes. Taking their cue, perhaps, from Burns, who wrote that "freedom and whisky gang together", the feminists have decided that the reward of liberation is a little drop of the hard stuff. A charity event for the Cancer Relief Fund is inviting ladies who enjoy a wee dram in private to come out from behind the decanter at a whisky tasting exclusively for women. Organisers hope that the guest of honour at next month's tasting at the Royal Opera House will be Britain's most famous female whisky-lover: Mrs Thatcher, whose favourite relaxation after a long day at No 10 is to kick off her shoes and pour herself a fine malt in the flat above the shop.





## TURNING THE KNIFE

Heaven preserve the Tory party from an ex-Chancellor's scorn. Sir Geoffrey Howe precipitated the downfall of Margaret Thatcher. Nigel Lawson on Monday drove a knife into John Major, who yesterday unwisely showed his vulnerability by hitting back. Mr Lawson's complaint has long been that he was always against the poll tax and should not be blamed for it. Ministers, he said, should stop dithering about its replacement.

Politicians these days rarely resign over matters of public policy. Mr Lawson went along with the poll tax. Had he threatened to resign over it, he might even have stopped it. Like most resigning ministers, he left not over policy but a personal matter, his relations with Sir Alan Walters. The least he can do now is leave his former colleagues to clear up the mess.

They are making a poor fist of it. Reports have it that the green papers on poll tax replacement, due next month, are still blank sheets. Consultation over the future of local government is a good idea, but consultation over whether, after all, poll tax really should stay is not. The community charge register, the "everybody must pay" syndrome, festers on through John Major's waking and sleeping hours. His whips are not so much dithering as shaking in their shoes. As a result, Labour cannot believe its luck. For once, it has both dressed itself up in the right policy — a return to the rates — and found a government without the courage to steal its clothes.

The question that Mr Major and Mr Heseltine are trying to answer is simple: how to ensure that "everybody" pays something for local services, as "everybody" (supposedly) does under poll tax. The question is based on a fallacy about the difference between rates and poll tax. This fallacy cannot be exposed too often.

Roughly 18 million households paid the rates. Roughly 31 million people are paying the poll tax. (Some 5 million more should be paying but are proving predictably elusive.) Yet of the 18 million former ratepaying households, over 10 million comprised two partners, equalling two poll tax payers. This

means that 28 million people paid rates in the identical sense that they pay poll taxes: the head of household bears the burden. To this number should be added grown-up children, grandparents and servants now covered by poll taxes who, for the most part, are also paid for by heads of household. The supposed additional "reach" of the poll tax is an illusion, an illusion threatening the credibility of Mr Major's most critical reform.

One difference between poll tax and rates concerned the treatment of council tenants, antagonism to whom remains at feverish pitch among Tory politicians. These tenants made up 4 million of the 18 million ratepaying households. But because their rates were usually consolidated in a single rent payment, they had little idea how much rates they were paying and were therefore in no position to object to the level at which rates were set.

A simple reform could correct this shortcoming: to compel every landlord, council or private, to bill tenants separately for rates. This has an additional virtue. Tenants would pay lower rates than (wealthier) freeholders and would therefore be less in need of rebates. Poll tax is so regressive that half of all payers are this year receiving some form of rebate, a shambles made worse by yesterday's announcement of more complicated reductions.

Mr Lawson's former department should realise the advantage that rates can bring it. Under rates, between 1976 and 1990, the proportion of local spending borne by central taxation fell from 66 per cent to under 40 per cent. Restore the rates, restore the business rate (capped initially if need be) and drop the nonsense about "making everybody pay something" by means of a head tax, and in ten years time the Treasury could think about cutting taxes again. Until then it is tied to the treadmill, and the ex-ministers will go on abusing it from the backbenches. Mr Major must get a grip on all this, and soon.

## TSAR MIKHAIL'S MINES

Imagine a country with much of its coal industry on strike. The prime minister declares the strike "unconstitutional". When others threaten to join it, he agrees to talks. The legislature orders the miners back to work, promising them a new deal. The miners are on strike because such promises have been broken before; they defy the order. Huge price rises are planned, ostensibly to put an end to hoarding. But the state has been hoarding more goods than anybody else. The state bank's printing presses are working overtime to "compensate" savers, whose savings vanish into the vortex of hyper-inflation. As demonstrations are banned in the capital, the government's supporters table a motion of no confidence in the leader of the opposition.

Lewis Carroll could not have improved on the Soviet Union as it is today. For the miners, the whimsy has gone on long enough. They must have known what they were risking when they called on President Gorbachev to resign, and so added their powerful voices to those of the radicalised intellectuals and workers in Moscow, Leningrad and other big cities. This coalition uncannily resembles that which originally brought the Bolsheviks to power in 1917. The dictatorship of the proletariat was once Lenin's trump card. But dictatorship by the party, which was the reality, did nothing for the Soviet workers. Today they want democracy and the free market.

Mr Gorbachev's referendum exposed the latent division between the urban radicals on the one hand, and the apolitical populations of the small towns and countryside on the other. While the motives of those who voted with Mr Gorbachev for the catch-all concept of a federation of sovereign republics were varied, the motives of the minority who voted against seem much

clearer. They wanted a change, not just of personnel, but of political system.

The coalfields of the Donbass and the Kuzbass are in a state of ferment primarily because of bread-and-butter issues: miners' living standards have been eroded by inflation. Promises to improve pay and conditions, which were made to them when they last rebelled, have not been kept. But now the strike is acquiring a political momentum. The Soviet pits could provide the incendiary spark to change — as in Poland where miners as well as shipworkers ignited revolution. The Kremlin must prevent the strike spreading to other staple industries.

No amount of capitalist subsidy from the West will remove the illogicality which has bedevilled the Soviet economy under Mr Gorbachev. The Czechoslovak finance minister, Vaclav Klaus, described the architects of perestroika in London this week as wanting "to organise sophisticated government programmes, build infrastructure and dominant industries, pick winners and losers, ask for massive Western financial assistance (and especially distribute it), help firms in distress, dictate prices, interest rates and exchange rates." This incessant meddling has turned a stagnant economy into one whose gross product is shrinking fast.

Every strike under such conditions is political, forcing debate into new channels. No government should lightly take on a miners' union, least of all a government with no popular majority. Coal cannot be extracted from the ground by the army. Coal now meets only about one fifth of Soviet energy needs, but miners can still make the country think again about legitimacy and consent. They may have the Soviet Union's destiny in their hands.

## TO THE FOUR'S CREDIT

Within a year of the SDP's birth, the SDP-Liberal Alliance was registering over 50 per cent support in opinion polls, a feat matched only rarely by the Conservatives even at their most triumphant. After Shirley Williams won Crosby in a 1981 by-election, overturning a Tory majority of 19,272, the party boasted that there was not a safe seat left in the country. Mecca quoted odds of 9-4 on for an Alliance victory at the subsequent general election.

By the eve of the 1983 election, such grandiose ambitions had been trimmed. But still the Alliance came within two points of overtaking Labour. Had it done so, a furor would have broken out at Westminster. Which party would have had the best claim to be the official Opposition? Despite winning fewer votes, Labour would still have captured perhaps eight times as many seats. The demand for electoral reform would have been far stronger, and Labour might have been condemned to terminal decline.

On the tenth anniversary of the SDP's formation, the party and its close relations seem doomed to such what-ifs. Early on, the Alliance might even have formed a government; later it aimed at least to replace Labour as the main Opposition. Now the SDP is dead, and its spiritual successor, the Liberal Democrats, are reduced to praying for the arithmetical accident of a hung parliament.

Was the project doomed from the start? Some have suggested that the Alliance drew from too narrow an electoral base. In fact, the base was too wide. The Alliance won protest votes from all classes in all regions,

but not enough from any one class or any one region. The same vote could have won the party five or ten times as many seats had the support been better concentrated. As it was, the party was fated to win second or third place almost everywhere. Its votes were a waste.

But those ten years were not. The SDP injected a much-needed dose of sense into the old Liberal party. What used to be a rabble is now well organised, no longer vulnerable to emotional spasms, at least in its policy-making. After three disastrous years overshadowed by squabbles over mergers and names, Paddy Ashdown's Liberal Democrats are now scoring only five points less in the polls than the Alliance won at the last election. They cannot help being squeezed by the move to moderation by the two main parties, but they are now a respectable home for the protest vote.

The original Gang of Four can claim some credit for the shift to the centre by the two big parties. They wanted to reform the Labour party from the inside but gave up, believing they could not succeed in the political climate of the early 1980s when Labour was dominated by the left. Yet the fact that Labour's policy review has produced a package barely distinguishable from that of the old SDP — support for Europe, retention of the nuclear deterrent, embracing the market economy — must surely owe something to the breakthrough. At the very least, it helped Mrs Thatcher to stay in power for over a decade, forcing Labour to rethink. In 1982, David Owen presciently confessed: "It could be that our epitaph will be 'We saved the Labour party'." It is.

## The poll tax and accountability in local government

From Professor Emeritus Thomas Wilson, FBA

Sir, The government has laid proper stress upon accountability in local government but has been strangely confused in applying that principle. First, the proposition that everyone should contribute to local expenditure has been intertwined with the assumption that only those legally responsible for paying a tax are much affected by it.

Hence the complaint that only householders were fully aware of the rate bill with other earners rarely contributing — and with dependant spouses too chicken-brained to understand how much household income was reduced by rates!

By contrast everyone has to pay the poll tax — and no one, it is implied, pays anyone else's poll tax! These odd notions can still be discerned in the suggestion that rates, when restored, should be supplemented by a charge for each occupant — a possibility considered by the Layfield committee but rejected as inappropriate and administratively costly (Cmnd. 6453, paras 48-9, 1976). It would also penalise the economical use of house space.

Secondly, the government seems to attach no weight to the view that accountability would be strengthened if more local revenue were raised locally. The Layfield committee suggested a local income tax for the higher level of local government together with rates at the lower tier, but we have moved in the opposite direction.

The business rate has been turned into an earmarked national tax, and the dying poll tax is now to be made more tolerable by a large increase in grant which, even if justifiable as an interim measure, will scarcely foster accountability.

Local government is in desperate need of stability but this will require a financial structure deemed, by broad agreement, to be appropriate to its functions and its structure — and to the, admittedly limited, effectiveness of local democracy. As Mr Heseltine perceived, inter-party discussions would be more appropriate than confrontational politics if a stable system is to be found. Unfortunately that approach is scarcely realistic at the present time.

Yours faithfully,  
THOMAS WILSON,  
1 Chalfont House, The Promenade,  
Clifton Down, Bristol, Avon,  
March 20.

From Mr Hugo Summerson, MP for Walshamore (Conservative)

Sir, Your leader today on the demise of the community charge is wel-

come. Local taxation once again is to be based on the wealth enshrined in property, as you say. But why do you prefer rental valuation as the best method of assessing value?

The old rating system was based on rental values, but evidence of genuine rental value was becoming harder to find in a market distorted by rent acts and landlord and tenant legislation. Rateable values became ever more notional.

Capital values are difficult to assess and very localised. A house at one end of a street, for instance, may be worth thousands of pounds more than an identical house at the other end, purely by virtue of its position. Is every single dwelling across the country to be valued?

The property market is dynamic, and it will not be possible to assess price fluctuations accurately at any particular moment. People who have lived in the same house for years, and who have seen a sharp increase in values locally, may not welcome these increases as their property tax rises. Tenants, too, will feel unfairly treated by a system based on capital values.

On the other hand, a scheme based on property replacement value — i.e. what it would cost to provide the building today — ignores the value of the site. Replacement values are readily ascertained, simply by measuring the property and consulting figures published by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and other bodies. Most people could do this for themselves, with ease and accuracy. And there would be no penalty for updating and improving a property.

Yours faithfully,  
HUGO SUMMERSON,  
House of Commons,  
March 22.

From Mr A. Holmes

Sir, Can someone explain why the new local tax proposed by the government has to be complicated by the need to have regard to regional variations in property values?

The tax will not be a national tax, and if a house in Richmond, Surrey, is worth twice as much as a house in Richmond, Yorkshire, all the other houses in Surrey will be worth approximately twice as much as all the houses in Yorkshire.

Although the total property valuation in the southern district will be twice as great as the total in the north, each taxpayer will pay the local tax calculated by reference to the proportion his property bears to

the total valuation. This proportion will be the same in both districts.

Yours faithfully,  
A. HOLMES,  
9 Mallard House, The Millstream,  
London Road,  
High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.

From Mr Roland Rensch

Sir, In 1974 and for the next decade and more the Conservative party declared that domestic rates were unfair because they were not "related to ability to pay". Except for the least affluent members of society entitled to rebates, the community charge is totally regressive. Yet we are now informed by the government that a combination of the two will produce a "fair" system. This is the logic of the madhouse.

Yours sincerely,  
ROLAND RENSCH  
(Chairman, National Union of Residents' Associations),  
8 Minshull Place, Park Road,  
Beckenham, Kent.

From Mr John Forde

Sir, As Northern Ireland still has the old rating system, I feel that we are subsidising the mainland because of the Budget. Northern Ireland residents will not benefit from the reduction in community charge, but will still pay the increased 17.5 per cent VAT on goods and services.

The Chancellor should either keep Northern Ireland on 15 per cent VAT or give us a £140 reduction in our rate payments.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN FORDE,  
26 Kingsford Lodge,  
Moira, Craigavon,  
Co. Armagh, Northern Ireland.

From Professor W. H. R. Lumsden

Sir, I have pondered for a few days the suggestion in your leading article of March 16, "Life after poll tax: 6", that Brussels might declare that Scotland should start at the Type.

The more I thought about it, the more reasonable it seemed. Here are three, predominantly rural, counties — Northumberland, Cumberland and Westmorland — little influential in a mainly industrial England. Would they not indeed be more comfortable and more appreciated as part of Scotland looking to Edinburgh rather than to London?

Why not then, taking an example from the USSR, a plebiscite in these three counties?

Yours etc.,  
W. H. RUSSELL LUMSDEN,  
16a Merchiston Crescent,  
Edinburgh,  
March 21.

## Imposition on books

From Mr David Russon

Sir, John Gillard Watson is concerned (March 16) that the recent move of the British Library Legal Deposit Office will adversely affect publishers and taxpayers, and increase book prices.

Hitherto publishers have sent a copy of every book published to the British Library in London. They are now asked to send them to the British Library, Boston Spa, in Yorkshire. Since most publishers post their books to us they will incur no additional expense. In any case their distribution centres are usually sited outside London.

By concentrating legal deposit and associated operations in Boston Spa the taxpayer will save money by taking advantage of the lower cost of employing staff in Yorkshire. The cost of posting a single book to Yorkshire is unlikely to lead to a general increase in the price of books to the public.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID RUSSON  
(Director General,  
Science, Technology and Industry),  
The British Library,  
Boston Spa, Wetherby,  
West Yorkshire,  
March 19.

## Motorway disasters

From Mr V. W. Hinkley

Sir, The lost "valuable reference point" for motorway driving in fog — the speed with which the country side is passing by — referred to by your correspondent (March 23) could surely be replaced by a "head-up" display of one's speed on the windscreen?

Something similar has been known to aircrew for many years and it should surely not be beyond the scope of car instrument designers now.

Yours faithfully,  
VERNON HINKLEY,  
Bealings, Berrington Heights,  
Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire,  
March 23.

## Ordination of women

From Lady Oppenheimer

Sir, Behind the anger with the Archbishop of Canterbury-elect for using the word "heresy" there is more than the indignation of those who ask for "a lead" but do not like it when they get one. There is the question of whether one side or the other in this dispute is not just wrong but in the wrong.

Dr Eric Kemp, in his article on March 11, brings this question to the surface by challenging supporters of women priests to say whether "the ministerial priesthood in the church has been defective all the centuries since the time of Christ". The answer, of course, is "No", but those of us who believe that the time has come for the Church of England to ordain women as priests can still reject Dr Kemp's *reductio ad absurdum*.

## Police misconduct

From Mr R. Montague Martin

Sir, As a retired solicitor, my recollection of police corruption and brutality goes back to the fifties. It is matched by even more painful memories of the almost invariably blind and contemptuous refusal by metropolitan stipendiary magistrates, as well as judges, even to countenance criticism of police conduct towards clients who sometimes appeared in court with the marks of their ordeal clearly visible on their swollen faces.

The glib account by the prosecution of the accused "resisting arrest" was always acceptable without demur to the bench. For a defence solicitor to suggest that police were capable of initiating force or fabricating evidence was heresy for which the punishment was as sure and unerring as it was silent and annihilating. One lost the respect and ear of the court and one's credibility in police circles.

Lord Denning was only reflecting the retributive and repressive attitude of the worst type of policeman when, in 1980, he closed his ears to the clamour of powerful evidence of

police misconduct simply because to accept it would seriously undermine public faith in the judicial system; and that would be unthinkable. Confidence in this system has now indeed been shattered.

It is not just Lord Lane who should resign, although that would be a good beginning. Nor is the answer to be found in time-wasting royal commissions; it can be summarised simply under three main heads:

1. Abolition of the adversarial system.
2. Common legal training for solicitors and barristers.
3. A separate professional judiciary selected at graduate level after proof of true judicial vocation which calls for that rare gift of impartiality for which skills of the partisan-advocate are singularly irrelevant and undesirable.

Yours sincerely,  
R. MONTAGUE MARTIN,  
Maurentia,  
30 Western College Road,  
Mannamead,  
Plymouth, Devon,  
March 21.

## Assessing children

From Mrs I. S. Deane

Sir, The current demand from headteachers of primary schools (report, March 18) that the results of the seven-year-olds' tests be not published, should be firmly resisted. Assessment of our children's ability at whatever age is the only criterion by which we can assess how well a cross-section of ability is responding to what is being taught, and therefore the only way we can assess the quality of teaching.

For too long it has been fashionable amongst our intellectual educationalists to suggest that it is psychologically harmful for a child, who is struggling, even privately to know his or her lowly position in the class, and therefore on this assumption all knowledge as to the achievements of individual pupils has been suppressed.

A child's confidence is enhanced by success, and that success being recognised. Success on the sports field is acclaimed by both teachers and pupils. No one thinks twice about or expresses indignation over the humiliation and demotivation of children who do not excel at an annual sports day, where brawn and not brains is involved.

Humiliation so publicly witnessed has a corrosive effect, illustrating the double standards which have, for far too long, been used to camouflage the effects of bad or ineffectual teaching, and teaching methods nurtured in the teacher training colleges.

Yours faithfully,  
I. S. DEANE,  
Moorlands, Chorley Old Road,  
Moorlands, Chorley,  
Bolton, Greater Manchester,  
March 18.

## As long as it was hardly feasible

for women to be ordained, a priesthood of only men was not defective. But now insistence on a male priesthood, as distinct from simply not ordaining women, will increasingly be seen to imply that in the eyes of the church women are less than full human beings. So both the priesthood and the preaching of the church are beginning to be impaired as unbalanced.

The opponents of women priests are not "heretics". There are responsible arguments, especially about church unity, to which they have every right to give weight. But Dr Carey's charge also has weight, that there is heresy mixed up in some versions of traditionalism.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).

## End of London City Ballet?

From Dame Ninette de Valois

Sir, I am distressed to hear that the Arts Council cannot find the money to give any financial aid to the London City Ballet (report, March 8).

The company has existed for 13 years and has received little help from the Arts Council. As a small company it is well known and has toured widely in England through the years. I can recall its successful season at Sadler's Wells Theatre not long ago.

I would point out that the company mainly employs a number of well-trained and talented professional dancers. Such artists should be encouraged to continue their work together. They are artists who, later in life, may well take up professional teaching. It is greatly to their advantage to have had theatre experience behind them that embraces exclusively their own world of ballet.

Occasionally a student from the Royal Ballet School has toured with this company for a short period of time. The experience gained was all to the students' benefit as they were working with professionals. The venture has met with the approval of the Director of the Royal Ballet School.

One is left both puzzled and despondent over a situation that is related to a small company doing widespread work in England on a professional scale.

Yours etc.,  
NINETTE DE VALOIS,  
Royal Opera House,  
Covent Garden, WC2,  
March 21.

From Ms Emma Manning and Mr Mike Dixon

Sir, It seems that once again the Arts Council's credibility as a responsible body is being called into question. The imminent closure of London City Ballet due to lack of Arts Council funding represents another classic case of the Arts Council's failure to manage its own affairs.

Given the superb record of this company in identifying and catering for the needs of audiences in medium-sized venues, and bringing ballet to parts of the provinces unserved by the larger companies, one would have thought that credit would be given where it was due.

London City Ballet is unique. There does not exist in this country a comparable company to fill its place. Touring groups, such as the English National Ballet, whilst performing admirable work, are not presenting the full-length classics which the public desires to see.

We question the integrity of an Arts Council which fails to support success and entertains its own wrong-headed notions in defiance of general opinion.

Yours,  
EMMA MANNING,  
MIKE DIXON (London editors),  
Dance Australia,  
PO Box 326, London N1 2YF,  
March 15.

## Clergy in waiting

From the Master of the Worshipful Company of Parish Clerks

Sir, I have read with interest your letters from churchwardens (February 18, 20, 28) saying when their incumbents should retire and from incumbents (March 12) saying when their churchwardens should retire.

As the third parish clerk to hold office in this century in Cornhill, and master of our company, I can inform you that the dear old parish clerk is never asked to retire. This is because he acts as a doorman for incumbent and churchwarden, who delight in telling him what to do. However, experience has taught me that what we usually do is what we want to do — hence our longevity.

I remain, yours sincerely,  
JOHN GAZE (parish clerk),  
St Michael's Rectory,  
St Michael's Alley,  
Cornhill, EC3,  
March 20.

## Tail appeal

From Mrs Elizabeth Sussex

Sir, It is due solely to the public relations effort of a powerful agricultural lobby that a squirrel has ever been defined as any kind of rat (Mrs Hawes, March 22). A squirrel is a granivore-herbivore with a history about 20 million years longer than omnivorous rodents such as rats and mice, and it was living happily in trees some 34 million years before homo sapiens assumed their management and put a price on those appealing bushy tails.

A squirrel's intrinsic worth is surely its persistent friendliness towards a species that not only attempted its extermination but has actually polluted or eradicated half of the world's forests in a mere 50 years.

Yours sincerely,  
ELIZABETH SUSSEX,  
26 Heath View, N2,  
March 22.

## The horse's mouth

From Mr Owen Hickey

Sir, The degree of Arthur Wellesley's Irishness (your leader, March 23) should not be settled without reference to the Duke's own remark on the subject, which was, "Because a man is born in a stable, that does not make him a horse".

Yours etc.,  
OWEN HICKEY,  
19 Lloyd Street, WC1,  
March 25.



John and Mrs. Peter Kucak, John and Mr. and







# Sexual déjà vu at the fin de siècle

Aids, urban homelessness and virgin births do not mean the end of the world is nigh, merely the end of the century. Joe Joseph meets a woman who has read it all before

What peeps up a morning with Elaine Showalter is not so much the drift of her thesis — that today's worries about solo women and syringe sex, about Aids and homophobia, about drugs and divorce just reflect routine fin-de-siècle panic, and that if we all stay calm we will survive. It is her delivery.

She has a knack of saying something sane and something barmy in the same sentence, making it tricky to know whether to nod or to faint clean away. It is a trait common among Eng. Lit. critics and cutting-edge feminists: Ms Showalter is both. She heads the English studies department at Princeton university, and describes herself as "an American feminist, which means I'm not involved in European theory and deconstruction". She says this as if the main tenets of European theory and deconstruction are subjects of everyday chit-chat.

Ms Showalter's appearance is deceptive. She looks like a bouncy, middle-aged executive involved in, say, personnel in Ohio. In the lobby of London's Strand Palace hotel, she blends anonymously into the thickets of American tourists spinning through the swing doors. But sit her down in a quiet corner, take out your notebook, and oh my, the things she comes out with.

Ms Showalter's theory is that "from urban homelessness to imperial decline, from sexual revolution to sexual epidemics, the last decades of the 20th century seem to be repeating the problems, themes and metaphors of the fin de siècle". As the end of a century nears, society tends to fear that civilisation is under threat. In her new book, *Sexual Anarchy: Gender and Culture at the Fin de Siècle*, Ms Showalter argues that "sexual anarchy" gets blamed for this social dislocation.

At the end of the last century, the sexual anarchy that provoked panic was encapsulated by women's emancipation, the emergence of homosexual men and the eruption of syphilis: the fear was that pushy women would want fewer babies, and that homosexual men would make none, a scissor action that threatened to cut civilisation to shreds. Nowadays, "Aids-

spreading homosexuals" and uppity women demanding careers, independence and virgin births take the blame.

Ms Showalter says that we need look no further than popular culture — novels, plays, films — for evidence of how society piles the blame on "sexual anarchy" for millennial angst. We might read Robert Louis Stevenson's *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* and find a racy, if second-hand, yarn. Ms Showalter sees a story that "can most persuasively be read as a fable of fin-de-siècle homosexual panic, the discovery and resistance of the homosexual self", the giveaway being such clues as Stevenson's frequent use of the word queer and his reference to

Hyde travelling to Jekyll's back door which is "equipped with neither bell nor knocker". And they show this stuff on Sunday afternoon television?

When we read turn-of-the-19th-century novels such as H. Rider Haggard's *She*, Rudyard Kipling's *The Man Who Would Be King*, or Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*, probably few of us turn over the last page and say to ourselves, "this shows how themes of the male muse, male bonding, and the exclusion of women come together in a complicated response to female literary dominance, as well as to British imperialism and fears of female decline in the face of female power", as Ms Showalter does.

"The myths that interest me most", she says, "are the ones that project apocalyptic anxiety on to sexual change, particularly those having to do with reproduction, both biological and creative. When people think the distinction between the sexes is dissolving or intensifying, then you get panic."

"The reactions to homosexuality and feminism at the end of the 19th century were fears of reproductive extinction. Either women wouldn't marry, or they would marry but not have children, or the energy used to develop women's brains would shrivel their uterus."

"The parallels with the virgin birth scandal that has just erupted in Britain are very noticeable. Men are aghast that women want the same social and sexual options that men enjoy as bachelors, and somehow think it perfectly all right for



Don't panic: Elaine Showalter says society's current fears of "sexual anarchy" are unfounded; if we all keep calm, we will survive

men to sell their sperm, but somehow disgusting for celibate women to receive it.

"The apocalyptic terror that women will somehow now be able to do without men is very fin-de-siècle. Also, there are some very striking similarities between the rise of syphilis at the end of the 19th century and the rise of Aids now, the similar talk about a religious scourge, similar estimates of the potential damage."

"What is particularly striking is how divisive syphilis was in terms of relations between the sexes. Feminists argued that syphilis was the product of men visiting prostitutes and passing the disease to their wives and children. Men, in turn, were blaming prostitutes."

"You might think that there is little new in this battle. Ms Showalter has sensible things to say about the similarities between the panics about syphilis then and Aids now, about some of the humbug that has been exposed on both sides of the

recent virgin birth debate in Britain. But from her observations above, she draws conclusions about the hidden mainsprings of *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, of *The Man Who Would Be King*, of *Heart of Darkness*.

"I think they're about sexual anxiety. They have become mythic stories of the century, filmed again and again. They are about crises of masculinity. *Jekyll and Hyde* has no women in it, although plays and films have put women in it, perhaps in an attempt to normalise it."

All this has to do with women's "invasion" of male spaces at the end of the 19th century, like universities and clubland. This resulted in efforts to produce another masculine space in art, with male adventure novels such as *She* representing the search for masculine identity.

Ms Showalter says these writers spun fantastic plots around alter-

native forms of male reproduction or self-replication, such as splitting or cloning (*Jekyll and Hyde*), reincarnation (*She*), aesthetic duplication (Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*). Bram Stoker played his part in the fin-de-siècle identity crisis with *Dracula*, creating a female vampire who "represented the nymphomaniac or oversexed wife who threatened her husband's life with her insatiable erotic demands". Her death at the hands of her male victims, who drive a stake through her heart, chop off her head and fill her mouth with garlic, is a scene whose "sexual implications are embarrassingly clear. First there is the gang rape with the impressive phallic instrument... then there is the decapitation," which Ms Showalter sees as controlling the pushy "new woman, by separating her mind from the body."

Francis Ford Coppola's film *Apocalypse Now* is one of Ms Showalter's favourite theory ve-

hicles for linking the late 19th and late 20th centuries. "At the end of the 19th century, what men were saying was that we need another war to reassert our virility. Coppola mythicises that in *Apocalypse Now*. Martin Sheen, at the beginning of the film, tears down the picture of his wife and burns it, symbolising his turning his back on womanhood."

So what are the lessons that the history of sexual anarchy has to teach us? "The end of the century is also the dawn of a new one. We're very close to some of these changes. They may seem anarchic and revolutionary, but they are progress towards a more satisfying sexual system. It's a positive process, for men and for women. My fear is that people will use it to regress to some earlier, harsher time. Having some sense of history just gives us another perspective. Changes that are so close to us now won't seem so terrifying."

That sounds reasonable. Why didn't she say so in the first place?

## Model of a modern Major

How Tussauds got its man

WITHIN days of John Major's appointment as prime minister, a meeting of the editorial committee of Madame Tussauds was convened. For the first time in Tussauds' 200-year-old history the exhibition was without a model of the current occupant of 10 Downing Street.

With the conflict in the Gulf, the prime minister could not spare the time for a two-hour session in Tussauds' studio in Marylebone Road, London. The image-makers — a photographer and two sculptors, led by Mark Richards — went to him. While photographs were taken, Mr Richards and his assistant measured Mr Major. An elaborate hair colour code was used to pinpoint the exact shade of those greying locks. His skin pigmentation was similarly matched. His favourite colours were discussed and he stated his suit, shirt, tie and shoe preferences.

Usually it takes six months to complete a figure. Tussauds are proud to have Mr Major ready for display at Easter.

FEW world figures can resist the offer of a permanent place in the exhibition. Nelson Mandela, who has yet to be unveiled in wax, almost merited a trip to South Africa. "But we heard he was passing through London and rushed a team to a hotel at Heathrow," says Juliet Simpkins, of Tussauds.

Some subjects prove more elusive. No Chinese leader has yet agreed to undergo the wax embalming. And Mikhail Gorbachev has also resisted posing.

Margaret Thatcher has been modelled four times, "twice sitting and twice standing," Ms Simpkins says. "She will not be disappearing from the exhibition. Like Winston Churchill, she will be here forever."

Many famous sitters donate items of their own clothing for the model. Has John Major? "I'm afraid not," Ms Simpkins says. "But we did go to his tailor and order a suit. And if you are expecting to see him in grey you will be disappointed. By mutual agreement it's navy blue."

JOHN MCENTEE

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## Bitter sweet

LOVERS of black and bitter chocolate will hope the Easter bunny brings them one of the Valrhona chocolate eggs from Rocooco Chocolates, 321 King's Road, London SW3 5EP (071-352 5857), containing 70 per cent cocoa solids. The chocolate is produced in France from the finest criollo and trinitario cocoa beans from small producers in the Caribbean, Ecuador and Madagascar. Better still, this bitter blend contains a minimum of sugar, and no additives such as vegetable fats or artificial vanilla. An 8oz truffle-filled egg costs £9.95.

## Doing business

PROFESSIONAL business centres are a boon for the self-employed with business to do in town. They provide meeting rooms, a conference centre, secretarial and telecommunications services, a delivery or collection point and a message centre. The Business Centre Club (annual

membership £38.50) links 49 such locations across the country. Members are offered a 10 per cent discount on certain services, a directory of centres and a newsletter and information line. Details from the Business Centre Club Ltd, 34 Seymour Street, London W1H 5AB (071-723 1516).

## Shaker by mail

SUCH has been the interest shown in the Shaker sale due to be held on Saturday April 6 (& Briefly, last week) that the Shaker Shop is offering a "sale by mail" facility for those who cannot make it to the Swedish Church hall in Harcourt Street, London W1, on the day. Shaker chair kits, dropleaf tables and sewing tables are substantially reduced in price. Contact the Shaker Shop at 25 Harcourt Street, London W1H 1DT (071-724 7672) as soon as possible, to order the £3 catalogue and "sale by mail" order form. Forms must be returned before April 6.

## Mortgage Rate.

Lloyds Bank Mortgage Rate<sup>†</sup> and Lloyds Bank Black Horse Mortgage Rate will be reduced to 14.05% p.a. with effect from 1 April 1991. This applies to both new and existing borrowers.

<sup>†</sup>Formerly called Home Loan Rate.

**Lloyds Bank**

THE THOROUGHbred BANK.

Lloyds Bank Plc, 71 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BS.

## & BRIEFLY

### Prime time

A TWO-DAY workshop called Prime Time will be run at Birkbeck College, University of London, next Thursday and Friday (April 4-5, 10am-4.30pm, price £80), designed for women in their forties and

those in the caring professions. Enquiries to Life Skills, 13 Canonbury Grove, London N1 (071-354 8188).

● The Tornado tie pins and cufflinks described last week (from Cobra & Bellamy, 149 Sloane Street, London SW1) are an even better idea: 15 per cent of the proceeds goes to the RAF Benevolent Fund.

VICTORIA MCKEE

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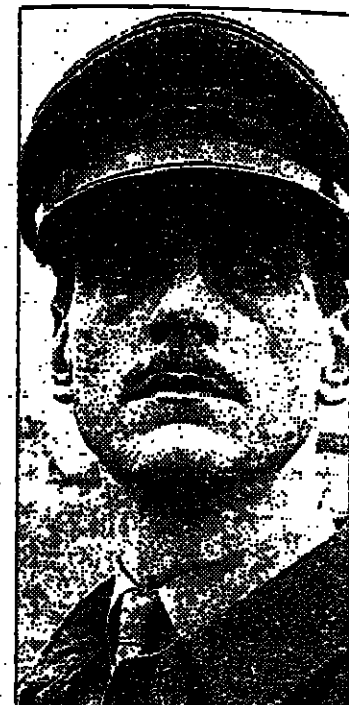
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# All hail the master of the stiff upper lip

1982: *Brideshead Revisited*

With 12 nominations and a bandwagon of hype pushing it from behind, nobody can be surprised at the seven Oscars notched up by Kevin Costner and his heart-on-the-sleeve, revisionist western, *Dances With Wolves*. But Oscar night represented a major triumph for the British stiff upper lip. In the Best Actor category, Jeremy Irons swept to his first Oscar victory with his icy and cunning portrayal of Claus von Bulow in Volker Schlöndorff's *Reversal of Fortune*, trampling the hopes of bull-roarers such as Richard Harris (for *The Field*), Gérard Depardieu (*Cyrano de Bergerac*), Oscar habitué Robert De Niro (*Awakenings*) and Costner himself.

Claus von Bulow, the man who made world headlines by being tried - and acquitted - of injecting his wife with a lethal insulin dose, was of mixed European extraction, though breeding gave him an English aristocrat's imperious bearing and clipped delivery. Despite the physical

From *Brideshead* to *Bulow*: Geoff Brown traces the unshowy rise of Britain's Jeremy Irons, who has just won the Best Actor Oscar

dissimilarities between the imposing, bald von Bulow and the slight, well-coiffured Irons, the actor proved the perfect choice to bring this enigmatic character to life. Vowel sounds are shaped with the gloss and precision of Fabergé eggs; emotions remain mischievously hidden under inscrutable stares from beady eyes; the patrician carriage bespeaks arrogance, control, cold detachment from the unsavoury whirlwind around him.

Hollywood, of course, has always delighted in the good-looking, well-tailored, well-spoken Englishman. Ronald Colman spent nearly 40 years in American films purveying genteel manners and debonair charm. In the Thirties, willowy Leslie Howard got the ladies swooning; later on, David Niven carved his own niche with his inimitable, raffish dash. Irons first made his mark

with international audiences in 1981, when he squired Meryl Streep through the complexities of *The French Lieutenant's Woman*, and later his languorous impersonation of Charles Ryder in *Brideshead Revisited* unfurled on the world's television screens.

For all his gifts, Irons may never be Hollywood's man for all seasons. That calm, correct English accent alone restricts his range, though he has donned other nationalities with success. He was a Polish builder working in London during the 1981 martial law clamp-down in Jerzy Skolimowski's marvellous *Idiot's Lighting*; he played Marcel Proust's hero in Volker Schlöndorff's *Swann in Love*, a trepidatious dip into the pages of *A la recherche du temps perdu*. Yet his quintessential Englishness can not be shaken off for long. The parts Irons tends to play -

the reserved, melancholy man of culture in a crumbling world - could easily resemble a row of dead fish. Increasingly, Irons has been able to open up his character, giving complex emotional shadings to the rigid demeanour and good looks.

Official recognition might have arrived sooner but for Irons's adventurous choice of screen material. Other actors with looks that kill tend to bury themselves in television mini-series and potboilers. Irons steadfastly avoids that trap. Trained at the Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury, the Bristol Old Vic, and the back-breaking routine of weekly rep, he retains a healthy respect for the written word and the script of quality.

Look at his record. Aside from Proust, he appears in film adaptations of Harold Pinter (*Betrayal*)

and Ibsen (*The Wild Duck*). He throws in his lot with idiosyncratic film-makers such as Jerzy Skolimowski, Belgium's Jean-Jacques Andrien, and David Cronenberg, Canadian master of visceral shocks (*Dead Ringers*). He also treads the perilous waters of the low-budget British film, appearing to charming effect with his son Samuel and father-in-law Cyril Cusack in Roald Dahl's children's story, *Danny the Champion of the World*. This is not the filmography of one anxious for glory. Possibly his personal manner has also prevented a quick rise to the Hollywood heights. "I'm impossible," he once said in an interview, "intolerant, impatient and impossible. I'm appalled by sloppy work, and if I see something done badly I say so." But Irons's own fastidiousness has now paid off with an Oscar. His Claus von Bulow is surely his best performance to date.



Oscar winners, page 24

1991: *Reversal of Fortune*

## Beyond Bath

THIS year's Bath Festival is claiming the largest single sponsorship of any British arts festival: £100,000 from Beazer PLC. The festival claims this has encouraged other sponsors to bring the sponsorship total to more than £300,000, or 40 per cent of the event's £680,000 overall budget. Artists director Amelia Friedman's theme is "Beyond Vienna", with special emphasis on music and musicians from Hungary and Czechoslovakia, while a strong jazz element includes exchanges between Bath and its twin city of Tbilisi, Georgia. The festival runs from May 24 to June 9.

### Number is up

MAURY Yeston's musical *Nine* - about the amours of a legendary film-director not unlike the one who created it - was a huge success in New York eight years ago, and has been vaguely promised for London ever since. Now it looks as if the show's time may at last be coming. Daniel Massey (last seen in the West End in another musical, *Follies*) and Jane Lapotaire (who won acclaim and awards as Edith Piaf in *Piaf*) are expected to take the leads.



Jane Lapotaire: musical? probably in the autumn, possibly at the Strand Theatre.

### Ninety years on and counting

IN CELEBRATION of its ninetieth anniversary as a concert and recital venue, on the day itself - May 31 - the Wigmore Hall will mount a programme of works composed in 1901, by Grieg, Janáček, Sibelius, Fauré, Debussy, Schoenberg and Rachmaninov. On the following day, mezzo-soprano Brigitte Fassbaender, accompanied by Graham Johnson, will give an all-Schubert programme. The celebrations continue until July 1, with artists such as Ely Ameling, the Beaux Arts Trio, the National Ensemble, and Trevor Pinnock and the English Concert, all paying personal tributes to one of London's favourite recital halls.

### Last chance...

ALMOST all of Birmingham Royal Ballet's principal dancers will be on stage together for the last night of the company's brief Covent Garden season tomorrow night at the Opera House (071-240 1066). David Bintley's new work, *Brahms Handel Variations*, is designed to show off a large cast in bravura dancing. It is given on a triple bill with Balanchine's *Symphony in Three Movements*, a powerful setting of the Stravinsky score, and *Theme and Variations*, Balanchine's evocation of imperial Russian splendour and elegance to Tchaikovsky's Suite No. 3. BRB goes on tour next month to Sunderland and Cardiff, but will be back in London for a season at Sadler's Wells in May.

When it was launched in 1969 by the promoter Mervyn Conn - with performances by Tammy Wynette, Conway Twitty and George Jones - the International Festival of Country Music reflected the new strain of accessible country that was emerging from Nashville. That year, Tammy Wynette's "Stand By Your Man" and "D.I.V.O.R.C.E." were big American hits. These were songs that defied the liberal social trends of the period. Conn's country music festival appealed to older, working-class music fans who were unmoved by hippies or the "swinging Sixties".

Yet despite this enthusiasm, six years passed before Wynette's records became British hits. In 1975, "Stand By Your Man" spent three weeks at the top of the charts. The mid-Seventies are often cited as the period when many post-war baby boomers became alienated by trends such as disco or punk and drifted into country music. Indications that country music was the unacknowledged lifestyle soundtrack for Britain's silent majority faded during the Eighties. Country devalued its

integrity with a leap into the cross-over market, perhaps encouraged by the 1981 success of the film *Urban Cowboy*, starring John Travolta. According to the British Phonographic Institute Year Book of 1989/90, country music sales recently pulled up to a modest 3 or 4 per cent market share. But that increase owed much to the influx of younger singers such as Steve Earle, Nancy Griffith, Randy Travis and k.d. lang. While these "New Country" retro-progressives find their way into fashionable magazines, roots music festivals

and television arts programmes, the easy-listening veterans tread water. In Britain, New Country thrives, in a modest fashion, on the fringes of rock and the roots/world music scene. Many of the artists, folksy and immaculately dressed for cattle herding, have revived traditional instruments such as the pedal steel guitar or the fiddle, adding the touch of authenticity necessary to satisfy a roots music audience. The string sections that have sweetened country since the early Sixties are taboo. British ballads and folk songs played a substantial role in the early development of American country music.

When he approached the managers of Brooks, he was told: "Mervyn, we feel that your festival is too country." Marketing in Britain is a delicate operation, particularly for music as suspiciously regarded as country, but Conn feels that the new stars have shunned the Wembley faithful. "Country is an older man's music," he insists, "it's not a teenage music." But he accepts that his festival will wither without an influx of new stars and new fans. Meanwhile, the recession has chopped his festival by a third and other forms of finance have evaporated. When the BBC dropped

coverage of the festival (blaming the sponsorship by a cigarette company), Conn switched to BSB, but this has also gone, following the BSB-Sky merger - along with the tobacco sponsorship. Unsurprisingly, there is a bitter note in Conn's voice, as he rails against the American Country Music Association, record companies, television companies, promoters, managers and up-start country musicians who do not wish to be associated with Mervyn Conn. In the current issue of *Interview*, the New York magazine, one of the best of the new country singers, k.d. lang, interviews Liza Minnelli. Country music is barely mentioned; instead, they discuss roulette, tap dancing and the ethics of wearing fur coats. This is rarefied stuff for a Slim Whitman fan, one suspects. The new country professionals may worship the likes of Patsy Cline, but their attitude to revival pageants is not favourable. Can one branch of country music find reconciliation with the other, or is D.I.V.O.R.C.E. looming?

● The 23rd International Festival of Country Music is at Wembley Arena (081-900 1234) on Saturday and Sunday.

## COUNTRY MUSIC

# What's new for good ol' boys?

David Toop looks at the reasons why the fans who go to Wembley Arena this weekend will not be seeing any of country music's young avant-garde



New wave or old hat? k.d. lang (left) may admire an established star such as Tammy Wynette (right) but differs in her approach to presentation



When it was launched in 1969 by the promoter Mervyn Conn - with performances by Tammy Wynette, Conway Twitty and George Jones - the International Festival of Country Music reflected the new strain of accessible country that was emerging from Nashville. That year, Tammy Wynette's "Stand By Your Man" and "D.I.V.O.R.C.E." were big American hits. These were songs that defied the liberal social trends of the period. Conn's country music festival appealed to older, working-class music fans who were unmoved by hippies or the "swinging Sixties".

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integrity with a leap into the cross-over market, perhaps encouraged by the 1981 success of the film *Urban Cowboy*, starring John Travolta. According to the British Phonographic Institute Year Book of 1989/90, country music sales recently pulled up to a modest 3 or 4 per cent market share. But that increase owed much to the influx of younger singers such as Steve Earle, Nancy Griffith, Randy Travis and k.d. lang. While these "New Country" retro-progressives find their way into fashionable magazines, roots music festivals

and television arts programmes, the easy-listening veterans tread water. In Britain, New Country thrives, in a modest fashion, on the fringes of rock and the roots/world music scene. Many of the artists, folksy and immaculately dressed for cattle herding, have revived traditional instruments such as the pedal steel guitar or the fiddle, adding the touch of authenticity necessary to satisfy a roots music audience. The string sections that have sweetened country since the early Sixties are taboo. British ballads and folk songs played a substantial role in the early development of American country music.

When he approached the managers of Brooks, he was told: "Mervyn, we feel that your festival is too country." Marketing in Britain is a delicate operation, particularly for music as suspiciously regarded as country, but Conn feels that the new stars have shunned the Wembley faithful. "Country is an older man's music," he insists, "it's not a teenage music." But he accepts that his festival will wither without an influx of new stars and new fans. Meanwhile, the recession has chopped his festival by a third and other forms of finance have evaporated. When the BBC dropped

coverage of the festival (blaming the sponsorship by a cigarette company), Conn switched to BSB, but this has also gone, following the BSB-Sky merger - along with the tobacco sponsorship. Unsurprisingly, there is a bitter note in Conn's voice, as he rails against the American Country Music Association, record companies, television companies, promoters, managers and up-start country musicians who do not wish to be associated with Mervyn Conn. In the current issue of *Interview*, the New York magazine, one of the best of the new country singers, k.d. lang, interviews Liza Minnelli. Country music is barely mentioned; instead, they discuss roulette, tap dancing and the ethics of wearing fur coats. This is rarefied stuff for a Slim Whitman fan, one suspects. The new country professionals may worship the likes of Patsy Cline, but their attitude to revival pageants is not favourable. Can one branch of country music find reconciliation with the other, or is D.I.V.O.R.C.E. looming?

● The 23rd International Festival of Country Music is at Wembley Arena (081-900 1234) on Saturday and Sunday.

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# Highlights from a low-life

DONALD COOPER

## THEATRE

Jeffrey Bernard  
is Unwell  
Shaftesbury

THIS brings Peter O'Toole back to the London stage in the role he unequivocally made his own 18 months ago. Since then, other star actors have woken at dawn after a night spent drunkenly snoring in the locked Coach and Horses, but it is his performance that will surely be remembered: a rheumy, gangling scarecrow crawling from beneath a table, inconspicuously attired in pink shirt and white jacket, his bony, grieving face hanging like a lantern from the top of a tree ravaged by Dutch elm disease. In some ways he seems a more real Jeffrey Bernard than the professional layabout, the low-life pundit, Jeffrey Bernard himself.

The Shaftesbury is a larger theatre than the Apollo, where Keith Waterhouse's play was originally conceived. Probably, it is too large for what, though the cast numbers five, is essentially a one-man show. But if the miking can muddy his chords, and his louder, more staccato moments render them obscure, O'Toole's charisma fills the place. Last night, that baying, bald voice held the audience, whether its owner was describing how he went cat-racing when a cold snap kept the horses and dogs indoors, or venomously accusing himself of "sloth, envy and self-pity", or contemplating his many failed marriages, or



Arkie Whiteley, Peter O'Toole and Annabel Leventon in Jeffrey Bernard is Unwell

remembering how a friend suggested filling a 52-seat coach with disenchanted denizens of Soho and driving off Beachy Head.

All the same, O'Toole could not quell my suspicion that exorbitant claims have been made for the play. To judge by some reviews, Bernard might be a wastrel of Herculean stature, an existential hero defying an empty universe from some conscientiously chosen gutter. It would be no less fair to

describe him as the apotheosis of the pub bore: self-absorbed, rambling, unstopable, entertaining only when and if his ruminations and anecdotes are heavily edited. Fortunately, he has found a considerate editor in Waterhouse, and, in Ned Sherrin, a director who continues to understand the value of pace and variety.

If O'Toole is never in serious danger of declining into the Ancient Mariner of Greek Street, it is thanks principally to his own strengths, but partly to the rapid turnover of angry wives, disapproving nurses, hacks, jockeys, and other intruders from the hazy recesses of his memory-bank. These are played by Timothy Ackroyd, Annabel Leventon, Arkie Whiteley and, as the famed top-Den Shaw and assorted lesser monsters, Royce Mills.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

## THEATRE

Dancing at Lughnasa  
Phoenix

ONTO a West End stage broad enough to take its farmhouse and soaring cornfield set comes the Abbey Theatre's wonderful production of Brian Friel's play. The cast remains unchanged from its sell-out season at the National, and once again Joe Vanek's golden field at harvest time glows like a vision of eternal plenty. It is an image pagan in its splendour, and somewhere beyond it, in the "back hills" around Friel's Donegal village of Ballybeg, this is the time of dancing at celebrations that owe nothing to St Patrick.

The cornfield grows right up against the farmhouse, but pagan joy, in this August of 1936, has catered right into the building, in the person of Father Jack (Alfred McCowen), home to stay with his five unmarried sisters after a lifetime of mission service in Africa. Innocently he chatters about the rituals he has been performing out there, to celebrate the new cassava, talking of gongs and dancing and the goddess Ochi. This is made all the more touching, and at the same time gloriously comic, by McCowen's owlish look, blissfully unaware of the sensation he is causing, and his gentle, matter-of-fact delivery.

Dancing as the release of emotion, a wild expression of joy, is

the image that courses through this play. Robert Gwilym, playing the Welsh scallywag, melts Chris's (Catherine Byrne) heart with a foxglove, on an impulse he partners the quiet Agnes (Brid Brennan) and, as the old Marconi radio sputters into "Anything Goes", her feet go twirling into an elaborate sequence of steps: her limbs, her face, her life are transformed.

Few moments in contemporary theatre are as thrilling as the scene where the radio plays a jig and all five sisters find their legs carrying them away. Maggie, the wryly jolly one (Anita Reeves), is the first to obey the music, followed by Brid Ni Neachain's Rose, the simple sister; the other two follow and when Rose finally lets out a whoop of excitement the audience releases a gasp of collective gladness.

Patrick Mason's exquisitely paced production brings out in the performances of his actresses the sense of past hopes all but faded. Dancing and the memory of other dances brings them hope to life for a moment, soon followed by the poignant acknowledgement of loss. Framed in the recollection of the grown-up boy — Gerard McSorley speaking as narrator and child — the play's haunting end repeats the dance as elegy: all seven adults staring out at the audience as the September light fades, swaying individually to a tune part heard, part deep within themselves. Exquisite.

JEREMY KINGSTON

## CONCERT

Shiva Nova  
Almeida

THIS summer one of the world's most radical feasts of contemporary music, the Almeida Festival, will be silenced, though there are apparently plans to relaunch it in a different form next year. Let's hope so; meanwhile the year-round occasional concerts such as this one survive, so that audiences can still savour new music in this intimate and friendly venue.

Intimacy and friendliness also characterise the approach of the ensemble Shiva Nova, whose musical intent is to fuse Asian and European, and, in the case of Priti Paintal's *Black and White Songs*, which opened Sunday night's recital, African cultures. Judging from the works that they played, theirs is not an exercise in dilution, as happens in many attempts at such marriages, but one which produces music whose sources remain clearly identifiable. The magic lies in the interplay between, rather than the blending of, Eastern and Western sounds.

Paintal's blatantly tonal cycle — settings of three poems by South African writers — was given its premiere by this group earlier this year. The composer, who also conducts Shiva Nova, disdains inappropriate complexities, and in the opening song, Francis Fallers

"My Drum", simple unisons prevail, though things become more complex in the final setting of the Rishile Poets' "Bring the Cattle Home".

The middle song, Jan F.E. Celliers's bleak and moving "That's All", combines sitar and cello in a mellifluous duet and also has wonderfully lyrical vocal lines, beautifully sung here by Hyacinth Nicholls and a remarkable young talent, Mike Henry. His vocal flexibility is extraordinary; here he comfortably straddled the register from low A to high C, producing a wonderful array of colours.

The other major piece of the evening, Anthony Gilbert's *Upstream River Rewa*, is an atmospheric embellishment of stories taken from Vishnu mythology, chosen and beguilingly spoken by Vayu Naidu. Gilbert has a meticulously refined ear, and his ability to suspend time and to combine the strictness of Western music with the exploratory, improvisatory nature of his Indian counterpart here proved extremely effective.

Between the two works, Eleanor Alberga played her own *It's Time*, a piece too redolent of American-style minimalism for my taste, and made more so by its medium, the synthesiser; while Neil Heyde gave with considerable passion Peter Scuthorp's Requiem for solo cello (1969), a ripe exploration of and reaction to the original plainsong.

STEPHEN PETTIT

## ROCK

Maria McKee  
Town and Country

THE three most noticeable features on the sleeve of Maria McKee's solo debut album are the two soul-searching eyes and the white lace halter-neck top. There are times when record company packaging gets an image wrong, and this was one of them. When the real McKee stepped nonchalantly forward into the limelight, she was sporting dungarees over a black fishnet caftan.

As she and her Irish band Moby Dick dropped into a pile-driven rendition of "I've Forgotten What It Was in You (That Put the Need in Me)", down must have plummeted the hearts of all punters awaiting an evening of variations on last year's soft-centred hit "Show Me Heaven". This was a studiously rowdy performance, characterised by the sound of decibels and the sight of swishing hanks of hair.

The oddity of McKee is that the content of her country-flavoured songs, which have lush, articulate titles, are at odds with the style in which they are delivered. Abetted by a quintet of good-time musos,

McKee's musical pronouncements let it be known that if her heart was breaking, they would sure be hearing about it in the next state.

If a touch fraying on the nerves, it was a bravura act which brought more literal meaning to the notion of carrying a tune. The likes of "This Property is Condemned", "Am I the Only One (Who's Ever Felt this Way?)", and a clutch of songs exhumed from McKee's years fronting Lone Justice were slung like rag-dolls around the auditorium, then left for dead.

In the ballads, determined to wring the emotion out of even the quietest songs, her music-bound vocal cords addressed their audi-

ence as if she was unaware that a microphone was performing some of the amplification for her.

The intention, one would imagine, was to shake off the residual wispiness clinging to her since "Show Me Heaven", which was almost dismissively tossed off with the backing of tambourine and her long-term collaborator Bruce Brody on the organ. The other No 1 she sang was "A Good Heart", which launched Fergal Sharkey's solo career. When more people realise that McKee wrote the song, perhaps it will inject fuel into hers too.

JASPER REES

## NEW RELEASES

AMERICAN FRIENDS (PG): Nineteen-century romance between an Oxford don (Michael Palin) and a young American (Frances McDormand), charming, intelligent, directed by Tristram Powell. Ocean Heymarket (071-438 7887).

JEYONS: THE MOVIE (R): Sir-com turn-out in a futuristic setting, a modified attempt to bring the British action genre before today's young audiences. Directors, William Hines and Joe Berber. Ocean Heymarket (071-438 7887).

JU DOO (R): Lust and revenge in a Chinese eye-tear. Extraordinary, compelling drama from Zhang Yimou, director of Red Sorghum. Ocean Heymarket (071-438 7887).

LIFE IS SWEET (PG): Up and down of a North London family depicted by master filmmaker Mike Leigh. DVD, boxed set, and on video. Ocean Heymarket (071-438 7887).

LOOK WHO'S TALKING TOO (R): Kieran Atley and John Thaw in a post-train-train comedy. Directed by John Thaw. Ocean Heymarket (071-438 7887).

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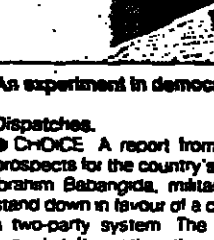


**000000000000**

8.00 The Channel Four Daily  
9.25 Muriel Nazzari-singer Cartoon (r)  
9.30 California Out Best. Wayne Friedman continues to explore the  
lifestyles of America's sunnier states, looking at some of the more  
eccentric jobs available (r)  
10.00 The West of the Imagination. The series about images of  
America's "Wild West" looks at how the building of the railroad  
was captured by photographers A.J. Russell and William  
H. Jackson (r)  
11.00 The Green Alternative. The last in the series on ways of  
conserving energy examines tactics for saving energy in both first  
and third world countries (r)  
12.00 The Parliament Programme presented by Sue Cameron  
12.30 Business Daily With Susanian Simons  
1.00 Sesame Street  
2.00 Film. Meet Me After The Show (1951) Sparky musical starring  
Bertie Croft as a Broadway actor who laments America to bring her  
errant producer husband Macdonald Garry to heel With Roy  
Cathoun Directed by Richard Sale  
3.35 Get It Together A despatch sports coach talks about his work  
4.00 The Footpaste Echo A new series for Easter using a blend of  
animation, rock music and interviews to look at religious themes.  
Begins with the plight of heroes in our society  
4.30 The Night of the Living Dead Episode four hosted by Richard  
Whitley, with Brian Johnston  
5.00 The Adventures of Tintin. Episodes four of Shooting Star (r)  
5.05 The Oprah Winfrey Show. Oprah's audience is full of Elvis Presley  
look-alikes  
6.00 A Different World. The award-winning Cosby Show spin-off about  
a black college  
6.30 Tonight With Jonathan Ross. The guests are film director Sydney  
Lumet and actress Helen Mirren  
7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Show and Anne Perkins. (Teletext)  
7.50 Party Political Comment from a Labour party politician. Followed  
by Weather  
8.00 Brookside (Teletext)



**Following in her ancestors' footsteps: Helena Brystola (1940-)**



An experiment in democracy: President Babangida (6.30pm)

**6.30 Dispatches.** A report from Nigeria turns a sceptical eye at the prospects for the country's return to democracy in 1992. President Ibrahim Babangida, military ruler since 1985, has promised to stand down in favour of a civilian head of state. He has also set up a two-party system. The trouble is that both the parties one vaguely left and the other vaguely right, have been imported from the top. And no other parties are allowed. It is a well-meaning attempt to overcome Nigeria's political divisions, religious, ethnic and regional, by decreasing just two outlets for democratic expression. Opponents doubt whether it will work. Their other doubt is whether the new system can help to eradicate Nigeria's unenviable tradition of corruption, bribery and electoral rigging. But if President Babangida manages to confound the critics, his bold experiment could have repercussions far beyond Nigeria.

**9.15 Re-Play: Dancing In The Dark.** Continuing the repeated series of short plays by female writers new to television drama. First and attraction mingle when a middle-class Asian girl meets a former streetkid (f)

**9.30 Free for All.** The topical magazine programme which gives writers the chance to put their point of view. This week there is a special on how people living in a council housing estate in Sheffield are being affected by new water metering trials.

**0.00 The Golden Girls.** Sharp humour from the Miami matrons, four unattached women who share a house. Blanche's hated sister arrives from Atlanta (f)

**0.30 Vic Reeves Big Night Out.** Off-beat comedy series

**1.00 The Very Bits of Absolutely.** Highlights from the anarchic Scottish comedy show, including a visit to Auercherloch Bowling Club (f)

**1.35 The Real Eddy English.** A two-part thriller starring Stephen Persaud as a young man trying to find out why his uncle (Frank Windsor) was murdered and the killers were. Not only are his family opposed to the idea, but someone is watching him. Then, totally out of the blue, his long-gone father returns (f) Ends at

00 Florida Straits (1995) Three former

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Trans  
7 00 S  
Dance

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**Hollywood heroes:** Nick Park from Preston, Lancashire, above left, won an Oscar for his animated short film, *Creature Comforts*, in which zoo animals talk about their life in Britain. Whoopi Goldberg was voted best supporting actress for her role in *Ghost*, and Kevin Costner, right, rode off with seven Oscars for his Western, *Dances With Wolves*.

# Costner sweeps up Oscars

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN NEW YORK

KEVIN Costner basked yesterday in the post-Oscar adulation from a film industry that had once scoffed at the very idea of *Dances With Wolves*, the epic Western that was named best picture.

He defied conventional wisdom in winning best picture and best director for a film that was once dismissed as a foolish ego trip. Westerns are out of fashion — even ones that cast the Indians as heroes — and the market for ones with much of the dialogue in the Lakota Sioux language and subtitled in English was

considered to be limited. The film, a three-hour epic about a lone US Cavalry officer among the Sioux of South Dakota won a total of seven Oscars, including best screenplay, cinematography, sound, original score, and editing.

and sisters will never forget the people I went to school with will never forget."

The award to Jeremy Irons for his portrayal of Claus von Bulow, the Danish aristocrat cleared of trying to murder his rich wife, in *Reversal of Fortune* was widely welcomed in the critical world.

The biggest surprise was the best actress Oscar for Kathy Bates, a respected but unglamorous New York stage actress, for her portrayal of Annie Wilks, a murderous nurse who torments an author in the thriller *Misery*.

moment". Two sentences later it was "a window of opportunity". Through this window, Sir David Steel saw "all the horses led into the starting gate," which (to the Rev Ian Paisley) was a gate "opened into a field" where there was "a lot of plunging to be done".

Arable farming now gave way to pasture, as Mr Brooke described his role as "a sheepdog." What the "sacred cows" which Peter Temple-Morris (C. Leominster), believed had to be "faced up to," were doing

hope, or one party or another will walk straight out of the talks: the purpose of these being to proceed as slowly as possible to the recognition that there is an irreconcilable conflict of opinion between Ulster Unionists and everyone else.

So we cheer you on, Mr Brook: as we might cheer a patient leader of ants, building intricate little bridges of leaves and sticks over the rivulets, leading to the canyon's edge.

**MATTHEW PARRIS**

29

**Best documentary short subject:** *Days of Waiting*, Steven Okazaki, producer  
**Best music original score:** John Cagione Jr. and Doug Orlander, *Dick Tracy*  
**Best music original score:** John Barry, *Dances With Wolves*  
**Best music original score:** *Scorekeeper or Lateral (I Always Get My Man)*, music by Stephen Shames, *Tracy*  
**Best music original score:** *Scorekeeper or Lateral (I Always Get My Man)*, music by Stephen Shames, *Tracy*  
**Best live action short film:** *Crumb*, Corky Stoll, Nick Park, producer  
**Best live action short film:** *The Lunch Date*, Adam Davidson, producer  
**Best sound:** Russell Williams II, Jeffrey Perkins, Bill W. Benton and Greg Gorman, *Days of Waiting*  
**Best sound effects editing:** Cecilia Hall and George Watters II, *The Hunt for Red October*  
**Honorary Academy:** Myrna Loy and Sophia Loren  
**Special achievement for technical achievement:** Richard Zanuck and David Brown  
**Special achievement for special effects:** *Total Recall*  
**Academy award of merit:** Eastman Kodak, for a new film technology  
**Academy award of technical achievement award:** Stefan Kudeisel, for development of first digital color film

Among the most popular awards was the Oscar for best supporting actress that went to Whoopi Goldberg, for her part as a dotty psychic in *Ghost*, the small-budget romance that became one of the most successful films of 1990.

● **PARIS** — the French actor Gerard Depardieu, nominated for an Oscar for his part in *Cyrano de Bergerac*, has denied saying in an interview with *Time* magazine that he had witnessed rapes since the age of nine. He is to take legal action.

## TOMORROW IN THE TIMES

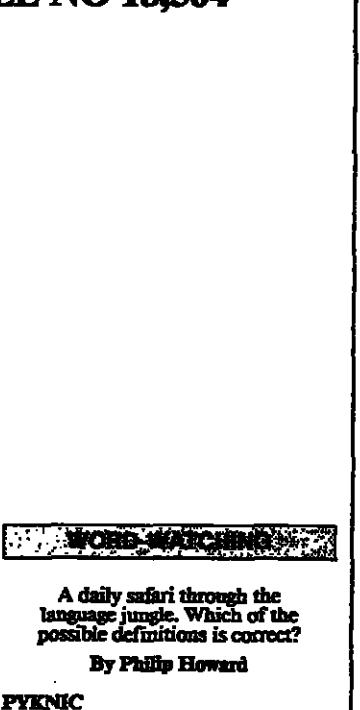
**Fool's charter?** New regulations about food hygiene coming

into force on April 1. Shopkeepers and small hoteliers warn that they will be put out of business, environmental health officers say they needn't worry, the regulations are probably unenforceable. Robin Young reports

**Next year's Oscars?** Geoff Brown reviews the new releases including *King Ralph*, in which an American "dlob" becomes, as if you hadn't guessed, King of England. A comedy? So we understand

**Britain's shame?** Bernard Levin on Foreign Office disavowal of the Dalai Lama in pursuit of a policy that consists of doing nothing to upset the Chinese

**WEATHER**



**PYCNIC**

26 Bloomer made by a submariner  
knew no bounds (7).

27 Line up without a soldier who's  
about to stray (7).

**DOWN**

1 City where ammunition is  
stored, we hear (6).

2 Girl — one taking shelter in the  
house (6).

3 Where list was compiled for-  
merly (9).

4 Providence here has no riddle to  
be solved (5,6).

5 Number that is 1/3 of 9 (3).

6 Where to find the brave finally  
put to the sword (5).

7 Make up mother used to conceal  
a blemish (7).

8 Criminal had up in connection  
with horse (8).

13 Distasteful, derogatory (6)

- 15 Under one's control, like a kine (2,1,6).
- 16 Boy's head with girl's kerchief (8).
- 18 Silk got damaged going round foreign warship (7).
- 19 Top of branch burning here (7).
- 28 Wrong trap set up for this game (6).
- 22 One given to charging cash (5).
- 25 Small coin that is (or was) worth little in India (3).

Conclusions

[illegible][illegible]

**Temperature isobars at midday yesterday:** a, cloud; f, ft; r, rain; s, sun.

**London 6.25 pm to 6.47 am**  
 Bristol 6.34 pm to 6.56 am  
 Edinburgh 6.40 pm to 6.59 am  
 Manchester 6.34 pm to 6.56 am  
 Penzance 6.45 pm to 6.59 am

**Monday: Highest day suns: Lowest day suns:**  
 Grampian, 10C (50F), lowest day sun: File Ness, File, SC (41F); highest rainfall: No rain; highest sunshine: Belfast, 11.5 hr.

**Yesterday: Temp: min 6 am to 6 pm, SC (46F); min 6 pm to 6 am, C (58F). Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, nil. Sun: 24hr to 6 pm, nil.**

	AM	HT	PM	HT	Today	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	11.37	6.7			12.00	5.7			5.26
Cardiff	11.08	3.8	11.57	3.9	12.00	5.7	2.2	7.08	2.2
Manchester	4.4	11.5	5.20	12.0					
Belfast	6.40	3.3	8.54	3.1	Margate	3.56	4.4	10.09	2.8
Cardiff	4.4	11.5	5.20	12.0	Milford Haven	3.53	6.2	4.24	2.8
London	4.29	10.8	5.05	11.2	Newquay	2.48	6.2	3.18	3.3
Portsmouth	4.32	1.9	4.35	4.8	Oban	4.05	3.5	4.30	3.4
Cardiff	3.05	5.9	9.24	6.1	Penzance	2.31	4.0	3.00	4.8
London	2.56	4.6	3.26	4.6	Portland	4.03	1.8	5.05	1.7
Cardiff	10.15	3.3	11.30	4.2	Portsmouth	3.08	4.0	10.20	4.3
Cardiff	9.36	3.6	9.55	3.5					

Chicago	3.02	5.1	8.43	5.1	Strommen	9.08	5.5	8.34	5.1
Albany	4.01	5.1	8.3	4.19	Southampton	8.28	4.1	8.17	5.4
Albany	3.62	5.1	4.13	8.2	Swansea	4.04	8.2	4.59	8.5
Albany's Lynn	4.23	5.7	4.20	5.9	Tene	1.23	4.7	1.26	4.7
Alb	1.27	5.0	12.26	5.1	Wfrees-on-Alas	5.31	3.8	9.60	5.7

Tide in meters: 1m=3.2808ft.







## Recession is levelling out says CBI chief

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE president of the Confederation of British Industry, last night said that the worst of the current economic recession might well be over.

Sir Brian Corby's statement, in a speech to CBI members in Belfast, is the furthest any business leader has yet gone in suggesting that Britain may now be moving into recovery.

Sir Brian outlined what he described as the "genuine prospect" for recovery now facing the UK and said that "the worst is probably behind us."

But he warned that some regions and sectors would still lag behind in any recovery. He warned too that "as we move into recovery", Britain needed to take full account of the lessons of the late Eighties which led to the current recession in the first place.

As the economy picked up, investment and savings had to grow in line with consumption, and there had to be adequate incentives to save and invest.

Sir Brian said: "If we can be realistic about what we can achieve, not spend before we have earned, keep inflation down and realise the opportu-

nities in Europe, we can look forward to steady growth and a soundly-based recovery."

Next week, the CBI will unveil its latest monthly trends survey and economic forecasts into 1992. Its indications for the likely pace of the recovery are expected to confirm Sir Brian's view that the recession is bottoming out.

However, the National Westminster bank warned yesterday that unemployment is likely to rise to 2.7m by the middle of next year, with the number out of work increasing much more sharply in the North and Midlands than it has so far in this recession.

Forecasts by David Kern, the bank's chief economist, show unemployment growth likely to be more evenly spread in 1991 than it was last year. Then, unemployment rose in the South by 35 per cent, says the bank, while in the Midlands it increased by 13 per cent and in the North by 4 per cent. In 1991, the rise would be more uniform - 35 per cent in the South, 37 per cent in the Midlands and 38 per cent in the North.

## Hambro chain cuts loss

By JONATHAN PRYNN

HAMBRO Countrywide, the estate agency chain, has announced a pre-tax loss for the second year running, though the deficit has been substantially reduced from 1989.

A pre-tax loss of £988,000 for the year to end December compares with a £10.5 million loss for the previous year. Turnover was £88.4 million (£77.6 million). The company reported a first half pre-tax profit of £1 million.

Christopher Spörborg, the chairman, said it was "a little disappointing though not surprising, given market conditions, that the trend of improved profitability achieved in the first half of the year was not fully sustained in the second half."

However, the company had continued to implement its long-term strategy of combining the estate agency operations with other businesses that were "less dependent on the cyclical UK housing market."

Developments last year included the launch of Hambro Guardian Mortgage Services, the launch of Hambro Guardian Consultancy and a joint venture with Seiyu Corporation in Tokyo to provide property advice to Japanese institutions and private investors in Britain.

House sales increased 12 per cent to 37,491 despite falling house sale volumes in Britain as a whole. Once



Uncertainty: Christopher Spörborg is still optimistic

again, there is no final dividend, making the payout for the year just 0.05p (nil). Mr Spörborg said the company would maintain its "policy of prudence" until it was confident that there has been a sustained upturn in activity in the housing market. Mr Spörborg said predic-

## Weir lifts profits by 21% to £27.2m

By MARTIN BARROW

WEIR, the Scottish engineering group, bucked the gloomy trend in the industrial sector with profits up 21 per cent and a 38 per cent increase in order intake, despite a claim by Ron Carrick, managing director, that the company is "just a dull, old-fashioned engineer".

Pre-tax profits rose to £27.2 million (£22.4 million) and a final dividend of 6.5p (5.5p) makes a total of 9.3p (8p).

Weir, with no direct exposure to the construction sector, benefited from strength in the oil industry. For the first time it took orders worth £100 million from the sector, which, together with general industrial, accounted for 60 per cent of order intake.

Turnover rose to £319 million (£232 million) and operating profits lifted to £26.18 million (£20.36 million). Interest receivable rose to £993,000 (£7,000), reflecting cash balances of £33.2 million at year-end.

In July the company raised £30 million through a rights issue. Five businesses were acquired, including the mechanical handling specialist Strachan & Henshaw, for £30 million.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Renault profits slump as market share falls

RENAULT, the French state-owned car maker, announced a sharp drop in 1990 net profits from Fr9.29 billion to Fr1.21 billion due to falling market share, lower productivity and heavy exceptional charges. This was worse than the Fr2 billion forecast by Raymond Levy, the chairman, this week.

The company's European market share dropped to 9.9 per cent (10.4 per cent), and even in France it lost 1.3 per cent. Turnover was down to Fr164 billion (Fr174 billion), while net debt rose almost Fr10 billion to Fr27.1 billion, including items for repaid government subsidies and long-term debt. The difficult state of the European car market means the company does not expect to improve profits this year but Renault is one of the companies earmarked by the French government for further aid to help it weather the recession.

### Thorn builds Thames stake Coats extends Tootal offer

THORNEMI, the entertainment conglomerate, has received acceptance from 30.75 per cent of the Thames Television share capital, including 27.8 per cent of the company pledged by BET, the industrial services group. This adds to the 27.8 per cent stake Thorn held when it launched its offer in February. The offer remains open until April 5.

### News Corp agrees plan

AN EXTRAORDINARY meeting of The News Corporation unanimously approved a new scheme to allow shareholders to receive dividends in the form of shares. Richard Seabury, chairman of News Corp, which owns The Times, told the meeting that he expected a "high proportion" of shareholders to participate in the scheme. Incentives include up to a 10 per cent discount on the market price, the absence of brokers' fees and stamp duty. The proposal was announced after News Corp negotiated an agreement with bankers to reschedule debt.

### GPT wins £90m contract Airtours halts Neilson talks

GPT, the telecommunications subsidiary of the General Electric Company, has won a further contract from the RAF to cover the installation of the force's UNITEC communications system. The contract, which GPT claims is expected to be worth up to £90 million, includes buildings and services to house equipment being provided by GPT.

### US plant orders down

ORDERS for long-lasting durable goods fell 0.3 per cent in February, largely due to a big drop in demand for new industrial machinery, the American commerce department said yesterday. The February decline followed a revised 1.5 per cent drop in January and a 1.4 per cent rise in December. Excluding defence, orders for goods designed to last three years or more fell 0.4 per cent last month after declining 2.3 per cent in January. Three-year durable goods are a key part of the American manufacturing sector. Orders for big-ticket items are a closely watched indicator of economic activity.

## COMPANY BRIEFS

**BOUSTEAD (Fin)**  
Pre-tax: £5.21m (£5.14m)  
EPS: 4.2p (4.8p)  
Div: 1.1p mkg 1.85p

**CLIFFORD FOODS (Fin)**  
Pre-tax: £6.65m (£3.80m)  
EPS: 26.8p (14.93p)  
Div: 7p mkg 11p (10p)

**RICHARDSON WESTGTH**  
Pre-tax: £2.21m (£2.16m)  
EPS: 6.2p (6.8p)  
Div: 1.55p mkg 2.75p

**SECURE TRUST GROUP**  
Pre-tax: £9.03m (£4.51m)  
EPS: 27.4p (23.4p)  
Div: 7.5p mkg 10.6p

**PENDRAGON (Fin)**  
Pre-tax: £5.07m (£4.72m)  
EPS: 18.2p (15.5p)  
Div: 3.8p mkg 5.4p

**BARR & WA TRUST (Fin)**  
Pre-tax: £4.51m (£4.22m)  
EPS: 22.8p (22.0p)  
Div: 6.75p mkg 9.75p

**JOHNSTON PRESS (Fin)**  
Pre-tax: £7m (£5.82m)  
EPS: 16.7p (15.5p)  
Div: 3.25p mkg 5p (4.5p)

**EEC GROUP (Fin)**  
Pre-tax: £3.51m (£3.31m)  
EPS: 18.9p (19.80p)  
Div: 4.5p mkg 8p (8p)

**FIRE EARTH TILES (Fin)**  
Pre-tax: £753,000  
EPS: 8.56p (12.15p)  
Div: 2.4p mkg 4.02p

**DERWENT VALLEY (Fin)**  
Pre-tax: £335,000 Loss  
EPS: 5.5p (EPS: 31.0p)  
Div: 5.5p mkg 8.25p

**NORTH SEA ASSETS (Fin)**  
Pre-tax: £1.21m  
EPS: 2.81p (0.41p)  
Div: None

**LOPEX (Fin)**  
Pre-tax: £4.93m (£2.28m)  
EPS: 9.17p (22.45p)  
Div: 1.1p mkg 4p (6.9p)

**ASPEN COMMS (Fin)**  
Pre-tax: £4.10m (£6.01m)  
EPS: 21.1p (32.9p)  
Div: 5.4p mkg 8.1p

**UDO HOLDINGS (Int)**  
Pre-tax: £4.15m (£4.59m)  
EPS: 9.41p (10.45p)  
Div: 1.62p (1.35p)

**MELVILLE GROUP (Int)**  
Pre-tax: £1.78m (£3.14m)  
EPS: 2.92p (5.28p)  
Div: 1.8p (1.8p)

**INTEREUROPE TECH (Int)**  
Pre-tax: £842,000  
EPS: 8.10p (7.95p)  
Div: 2.0p (2.0p)

**TRIBUNE NEWSPAPERS**  
Pre-tax: £1.37m Loss  
EPS: 70.0p (1.4p)  
Div: None

**HENDERSON HIGHLAND**  
Pre-tax: £2.24m  
EPS: 6.27p  
Div: 1.3125p mkg 5.25p

**TRAFFORD PARK ESTS**  
Pre-tax: £1.44m (£1.82m)  
EPS: 1.435p (1.61p)  
Div: 0.85p (0.85p)

**KINGSFAN GROUP (Fin)**  
Pre-tax: £3.81m (£2.81m)  
EPS: 11.74p (10.07p)  
Div: 1.2p mkg 2.2p

**LINCAT GROUP (Int)**  
Pre-tax: £376,000  
EPS: 3.74p (5.70p)  
Div: 1.8p (1.8p)

Last time's total dividend was 1.5p. There was an extraordinary gain of £2.63m. First quarter profits showed a shortfall on last year.

Turnover climbed to £149m (£136m). Operating margins rose to 5.4 per cent (3.5 per cent). There was an extraordinary profit of £338,000.

Final results. Last time's total dividend was 2.5p. Sales rose to £40.8m (£33.7m). Gearing has been cut from 24 per cent at year-end.

Final results. Last year's total dividend was 8.5p. Gross income rose to £12.5m (£9.71m). Company remains confident for 1991.

Company benefited from strong performance from contract hire and after sales. Turnover slipped to £174.4m (£180.3m).

Last time's total dividend was 8.75p. There was an extraordinary credit of £922,000. Turnover climbed to £238.3m (£219.5m).

There was an exceptional credit of £40,000. There was an extraordinary debit of £331,000. Turnover rose to £63.3m (£41.7m).

Operating profits slipped to £4.67m (£5.05m). Interest payments rose to £1.65m (£668,000). There was an exceptional charge of £300,000.

Last time's profit was £971,000. Last time's single dividend was 2.25p. Group turnover climbed to £5.04m (£4.09m).

Last time's profit was £3.54m, and the total dividend was 7.5p. Interest payments rose to £3.3m (£1.88m). Extraordinary credit of £165,000.

Last time's profit was £280,000. There was an exceptional debit of £360,000, and an extraordinary debit of £225,000.

Turnover increased to £242.7m (£188.7m). Interest payments rose to £1.75m (£1.18m). There was an extraordinary debit of £338,000.

Last time's total dividend was 7.8p. Turnover grew to £62.8m (£58.7m). There was an extraordinary debit of £668,000.

Turnover fell to £28.3m (£31.4m). Company said trading conditions continue to be difficult, but it is well placed to weather the storm.

Turnover slid to £46.8m (£53.8m). Company expects a boost from its European operations, which are faring better than in Britain.

Last time's profit was £838,000. Turnover declined to £5.81m (£6.23m). Company said second half has started satisfactorily.

Interim results. All figures are in Irish currency. Last time's loss was £225,000. Company expects to show a substantial full year loss.

Final results. The figures are for the 17 month period to the end of February. The net asset value stood at 93.9p per share.

Interim results. Turnover rose to £6.01m (£4.97m). No immediate substantial improvement expected in the industrial sector.

All figures are in Irish currency. Last time's total dividend was 1.33p. Turnover increased to £253.3m (£240.5m).

Last time's profit was £802,000. Interest payments jumped to £221,000 (£99,000). Trading conditions remain difficult.

# NOTHING SUCCEEDS

Teesside development is bucking the trend. Under the stimulus of the Development Corporation's massive effort to transform the social environment and boost the economy, private investment is flowing in at an unprecedented rate. Over £500 million already committed - much more to come.

Work is well under way on major flagship schemes. Like Teesdale where 250 acres of formerly derelict industrial land is now being transformed into a new business world for the North. Like Teesside Park's 1,000,000 square foot shopping and leisure centre where trading has already begun. Like Hartlepool Marina where people are moving into the first houses and boats are moving into the first berths.

In the past three years more than 100 companies have been helped by the Corporation to set up or expand on Teesside. That means 7,500 projected new jobs and many more indirectly. Confidence in Teesside's success is shown in new major investment by worldwide manufacturing companies - ICI, Enron, Cable & Wireless, Integral Corporation, Sanyo, MTM, Tabuchi, Samsung.

Abundant new premises, a ready-and-able workforce, Development Area incentives, excellent road, rail, sea and air links, and the energy and commitment of Teessiders - all are combining to make Teesside one of the fastest growing business centres in the country.

Teesside. Building successfully on success. Come and join us.

# LIKE TEES/SIDE

For more information contact: Duncan Hall, Chief Executive, Teesside Development Corporation, Tees House, Riverside Park, Middlesbrough, Cleveland TS2 1RE. Tel: (0642) 230636. Fax: (0642) 230843.



**TEES/SIDE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**



**CAROL LEONARD**



## Overseas help fails to halt Steetley's decline to £85.2m

By MARTIN BARROW

STEETLEY'S pre-tax profits fell 23 per cent to £85.2 million in 1990, from £110.9 million, despite the building materials group's exposure to markets outside Britain.

Although the figures were in line with City expectations, there was relief that the group's non-British businesses, which now account for more than half of operating profits, had performed better than expected, particularly in France. Steetley shares rose 13p to 378p.

The figures provide further evidence, however, of the sharp deterioration in trading conditions that hit the industry in the final weeks of the year, particularly in the commercial sector.

At the halfway stage, Steetley produced profits just 3.5 per cent down to £49.2 mil-



Donne: slump continues. The group was confident enough to increase its interim dividend by 5 per cent. The final dividend stays at 9p a share, making 14p, against 13.75p for the year. Earnings fell from 46p a share to 34.8p. David Donne, chairman,

said the decline had extended into this year. He said: "The year has not started well, with many of our markets remaining depressed. There is also uncertainty in other countries in which we operate, although any slowdown is proving to be less severe than in the UK."

After Steetley spent £129 million on acquisitions and £59 million on capital investment, gearing has doubled to 50 per cent. The interest charge rose from £4.6 million to £20.5 million.

Operating profits fell from £115.5 million to £105.7 million, in spite of a £104 million increase in turnover to £758.5 million. Lower volumes reduced British turnover from £368.6 million to £344.3 million, with intensified competition further eroding margins and reducing operating profits 25 per cent to £51 million.

In France, where the group spent £115 million on six acquisitions during the year, the operating profits rose 21 per cent to £29.2 million. Mr Donne said the second half had been held back by a slowdown in the market and margin erosion in concrete and coated roadstone, but margins had improved by year-end.

Spanish profits rose from £7.5 million to £10.8 million, helped by Steetley's prominence in aggregates in the Madrid region.

North American profits slipped from £15.5 million to £14.2 million. Although US quarrying operations enjoyed a record year, brick operations managed only a modest profit, while in Canada, volumes were affected by a protracted strike at Stelco, the steel company that is one of Steetley's major customers.

## First slide in Croda profits for nine years

By JONATHAN PRYNN

A SHARP second-half decline in activity has caused the first profits downturn for nine years at Croda International, the specialist chemicals group.

Pre-tax profits for the year to end-December fell 7 per cent to £33.7 million, on turnover down 2 per cent to £366.4 million. The maintained 6.9p final dividend makes an unchanged 11p payout for the year.

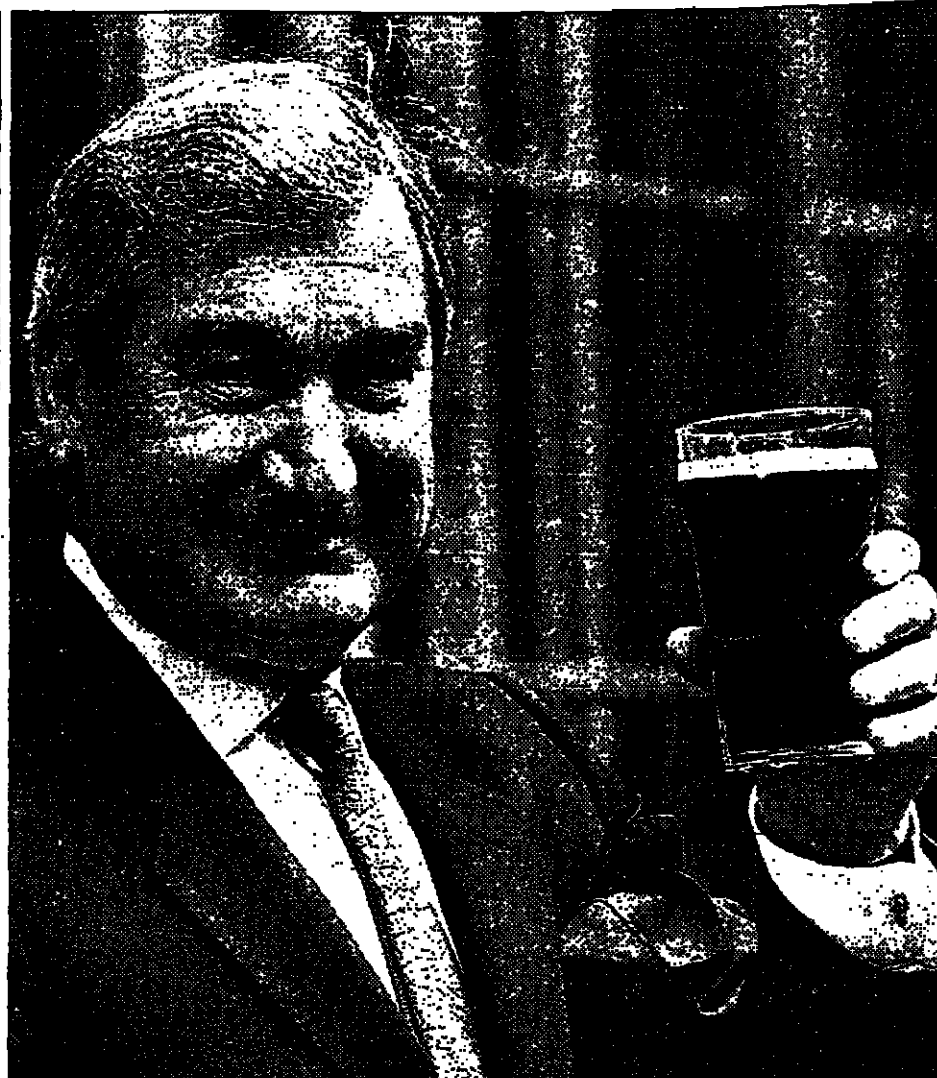
Michael Valentine, the chairman, said the company's core specialty chemicals operations had performed well, increasing profits by £800,000 to £21 million. Surface coatings suffered a sharp downturn in profits from £8.9 million to £7 million, due to a decline in demand for industrial paints in Australia and Britain.

The gains in cosmetics and toiletries were more than offset by poor results from food and industrial chemicals and substantial losses from the rendering operations, which have since been sold.

Before the year-end, Croda disposed of its British lactic acid business and closed its Detroit automotive sealants factory, Australia Graphics and its "outdated" Melbourne chemical manufacturing plants. Losses from these closures and disposals amounted to £2.7 million, charged as an extraordinary item.

Capital expenditure for the year was £22.9 million. Over the past three years Croda has spent £69.4 million on premises, plant and equipment and £15.9 million on acquisitions.

Mr Valentine said he did not expect "any quick alleviation in the UK of a very difficult business climate" this year. With several overseas markets also in recession, "the outlook in many directions is unattractive," he said.



Toasting a strong performance: Denis Cassidy, chairman of Boddington

## Boddington tops £20m

PRE-TAX profits at Boddington, the public house and hotel group, rose by 23.6 per cent to £20.1 million (£16.2 million) in its first full financial year after disposing of its brewing interests to Whitbread in September 1989 (Jonathan Pryn writes).

Earnings per share were up 20.7 per cent to 13.4p (11.1p), while a final 3.85p (3.25p) dividend makes a 6p (5.1p) total payout for the year, a 17.6 per cent advance.

The pub division, which has a portfolio of 215 managed and 275 tenanted pubs re-

ported a trading profit of £17.8 million, 84 per cent of the group total. The hotel and restaurant division made a £1.8 million trading profit. Neither division reported comparative figures for 1989 but their combined £19.6 million profit compared with £17.8 million in 1989.

The healthcare division, operating 16 homes, increased its trading profit by £300,000 to £1.4 million. Occupancy rates were about 80 per cent, compared with the company's 95 per cent target.

Denis Cassidy, the chair-

man, said that drink consumption had been less affected by the recession than the company's restaurant and hotel operations. The results represented a "strong performance in a deteriorating economic climate."

He added: "The benefits of the strategic change implemented in 1989 have been demonstrated, our balance sheet is strong and our prudent investment policy ensures that the group is well positioned to take advantage of current restructuring in brewing and drinks retailing."

The group's

## Grampian drives forward to £13m

By MICHAEL TATE  
DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

GRAMPIAN Holdings, the Scottish conglomerate, overcame a downturn in its road haulage operations to increase pre-tax profits by 8 per cent, from £12.11 million to £13.08 million last year.

Erratic fuel prices during the build-up to the Gulf war and other cost increases sent transport division profits reeling from £3.04 million to £2.49 million, but the other three core divisions chalked up healthy improvements.

Profits from the pharmaceutical division, specialising in veterinary drugs distribution, advanced 5.4 per cent to £3.66 million.

The best performers were the sporting goods activities, where a rationalised Patrick International, in France, contributed to a 21.9 per cent leap to £2.89 million, and the retail arm, where the integration of James Pringle with Grampian Woollen Mills and the purchase of Glenmuir were behind a 42 per cent surge to £2.71 million.

Earnings per share improved from 13.66p to 14.01p. Bill Hughes, the Grampian chairman, is lifting the final dividend to 3.5p, making a total of 5p for the year, against 4.3p previously.

Mr Hughes said the difficult trading conditions experienced towards the end of the year were still in evidence.

Capital expenditure plans were being cut back, gearing was up from 37 per cent to 45 per cent at the year end.

Mr Hughes expects further growth from recent acquisitions. These additions to the company include R C Redman (Pro Quip), a supplier of leisure rainwear for professional and amateur golfers, which was acquired yesterday for £200,000 in cash.

## Profits rise to £40m as Iceland absorbs Bejam

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

ICELAND Frozen Foods, which took over Bejam in a £234 million hostile bid battle two years ago, has completed the integration of the two chains. The group now has more than 500 outlets.

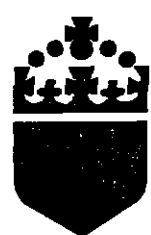
Iceland made £40.3 million pre-tax profits in 1990, up 14 per cent on last year. Sales were £725 million, up 8 per cent, and earnings per share rose 16 per cent to 29p. The final dividend is 4.9p, making 7.2p, up 16 per cent.

The group appears to have overcome the distribution

problems it faced in the aftermath of the merger with Bejam.

Iceland opened 26 stores last year, of which six were replacements, and has plans for 40 for 1991. Capital expenditure in 1991 will be £50 million, down from £56 million, and the expansion programme will continue to be funded by cashflow. The gearing ratio is 73 per cent and will fall to below 60 per cent this year.

The shares were unchanged at 325p.



## Royal Insurance

### 1990 REPORT

- The 1990 results have been dominated by total worldwide weather related losses costing some £352m which together with an unprecedented increase in large fire claims were largely responsible for the trading loss of £187m.
- We are carrying out a strategic review of our operations to ensure that they are correctly positioned to achieve an adequate return to shareholders in the longer term.
- We have accelerated a number of result improvement programmes including the repricing of products, enforcing stricter underwriting standards and strengthening financial controls.
- In the UK our remedial actions aided by some firming in the market place are expected to bring benefits. Meanwhile the better trend seen in the USA is evidence of the beneficial effect of our new strategic direction.
- The enhancement in prospects for our two largest subsidiaries together with other measures being taken provide an opportunity to make a significant improvement in our performance in 1991. We can expect the full benefits of the various programmes to flow through in 1992.



The 1990 Annual Report & Accounts is being posted to all shareholders. Copies are available from Group Corporate Relations, Royal Insurance Holdings plc, 1 Cornhill, London EC3V 3QR.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

POSTCODE: \_\_\_\_\_

## Watts falls 8.6% to £7.75m

By PHILIP PANGALOS

WATTS, Blake, Bearn & Co, the Devon ball clay and china clay producer, suffered an 8.6 per cent decline in profits to £7.75 million in the year to end-December, despite an 11.2 per cent advance in sales to £56.4 million.

The company blamed the fall in profits on "particularly difficult" trading conditions at its British china clay and

American ball clay operations. John Pike, managing director, said: "UK ball clay had a good year, but this was more than offset by a reduction in china clay sales." This was largely due to lower sales to the paper industry.

Overseas growth helped offset a downturn in British sales, which were 1.6 per cent lower at £9.62 million. The group's

German division, which accounts for more than a third of turnover, produced another solid performance, boosted by 10 per cent growth in its export markets.

Earnings per share slipped from 28.4p to 26p. The final dividend is raised to 6.6p (6p), making an improved total of 9.3p (8.6p) for the year.

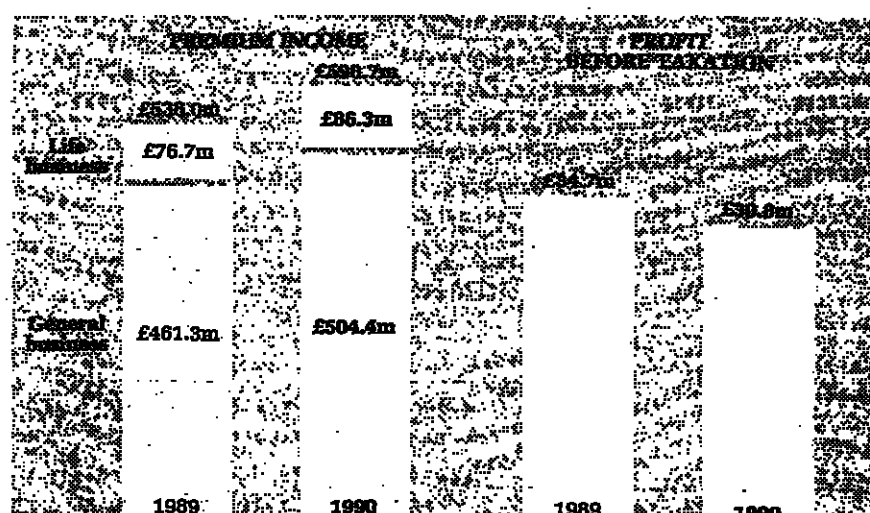
The shares lost 10p to 411p.

## CORNHILL INSURANCE ACHIEVEMENT IN A DIFFICULT YEAR

In the face of particularly adverse weather conditions and severe competition, Cornhill's profit levels declined in the UK. However, good performances came

from overseas companies.

Overall, Cornhill produced commendable results. Total profit before tax in 1990 was £30.8m (£34.7m in 1989).



	1989	£m	1990	£m
<b>PREMIUM INCOME</b>				
General business	461.3		504.4	
Life business	76.7		86.3	
	538.0		590.7	
<b>PROFITS</b>				
General business				
- Underwriting result	(25.3)		(39.5)	
- Investment income attributable to general insurance funds	41.8		51.1	
General insurance profit	16.5		11.6	
Shareholders' investment and other income	15.1		14.6	
General business profit	31.6		26.2	
Life business profit	4.2		4.2	
Associated undertakings' results	(0.2)		0.9	
Staff profit-sharing share scheme	(0.9)		(0.5)	
Profit before taxation	34.7		30.8	

Copies of the Annual Report will be available shortly from the Company Secretary at 57 Ladywood, Guildford, Surrey GU1 1DB.



**Cornhill INSURANCE**  
A member of the Allianz Group







*Platinum*

**The prices in this section refer to Monday's trading**

## MONEY MARKETS

Exchange index compared with 1985 was same at \$2.2 (day's range \$1.9-\$2.2).

## STERLING RATES

Mkt Rates for Mar 26	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
New York	1.4955-1.7545	1.7355-1.7545	1.07-1.07	2.54-2.62
London	2.0285-2.0301	2.0293-2.0301	0.53-0.54	1.03-1.03
Amsterdam	3.939-3.939	3.939-3.939	1.15-1.16	2.34-2.34
Brussels	80.60-80.90	80.67-80.90	25-18	55-55
Copenhagen	11.878-11.898	11.894-11.894	25-25	55-55
Dublin	1.074-1.074	1.074-1.074	1.05-1.05	25-25
Frankfurt	2.3472-2.3521	2.3525-2.3522	1.14-1.14	2.25-2.25
Geneva	267-2.259-2.277	2.264-2.259-2.277	23-23	17-25
London	101.53-101.56	101.53-101.56	101.53-101.56	101.53-101.56
Madrid	216.25-2.300-2.318	2.318-2.300-2.318	4-2	6-4
Mexico	11.454-11.559	11.520-11.521	2.14-2.14	5.14-5.14
Paris	10.000-10.007	10.002-10.007	6.4-6.37	10.00-6.06
Stockholm	10.555-10.717	10.678-10.705	3-3	3-3
Tokyo	240.24-240.25	240.24-240.25	93-93	103-103
Zurich	20.744-20.823	20.781-20.820	7-7	103-103
Zurich	2.5004-2.5177	2.5142-2.5177	1-4	28-28

Source: Reuters. Premium for 3% discount = 0.5.

## MONEY RATES (%)

Money Rates	Clearing Banks	12m	Finance	14	Low	12m	Week	Bank	12m
Discount	Market	London	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
Treasury bills (30-day)	2 1/2	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11

Prime Bank Rate (30-day)	12 1/2-12 1/2	12 1/2-11 1/2	11 1/2-11 1/2	11 1/2-11 1/2	11 1/2-11 1/2
Trade bills (30-day)	12 1/2-12 1/2	12 1/2-12 1/2	12 1/2-12 1/2	12 1/2-12 1/2	12 1/2-12 1/2
Interbank	12 1/2-12 1/2	12 1/2-12 1/2	12 1/2-12 1/2	12 1/2-12 1/2	12 1/2-12 1/2
Overnight open 13%	13	n/a	12 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2
Local Authority Deposit	13	n/a	12 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2
Starting Cash	12 1/2-12 1/2	12 1/2-12 1/2	12 1/2-12 1/2	12 1/2-12 1/2	12 1/2-12 1/2
Building Society Cash	12 1/2-12 1/2	12 1/2-12 1/2	12 1/2-12 1/2	12 1/2-12 1/2	12 1/2-12 1/2

## EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar	9 1/4-9 1/4	9 1/4-9 1/4	9 1/4-9 1/4	9 1/4-9 1/4	9 1/4-9 1/4
Swiss Franc	9 1/4-9 1/4	9 1/4-9 1/4	9 1/4-9 1/4	9 1/4-9 1/4	9 1/4-9 1/4
French Franc	9 1/4-9 1/4	9 1/4-9 1/4	9 1/4-9 1/4	9 1/4-9 1/4	9 1/4-9 1/4
Spanish Franc	9 1/4-9 1/4	9 1/4-9 1/4	9 1/4-9 1/4	9 1/4-9 1/4	9 1/4-9 1/4
Italian Franc	9 1/4-9 1/4	9 1/4-9 1/4	9 1/4-9 1/4	9 1/4-9 1/4	9 1/4-9 1/4

## GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS

Bullion: Gold	\$357.00-\$358.10	Close	\$358.70-\$359.20	High	\$358.00-\$359.10
Low	\$356.50-\$357.00	Open	\$358.00-\$358.50	Low	\$357.00-\$357.50
Silver	\$10.00-\$10.10	Close	\$10.00-\$10.10	High	\$10.00-\$10.10
Low	\$9.90-\$10.00	Open	\$10.00-\$10.10	Low	\$9.90-\$10.00
Platinum	\$588.00 (\$222.40)	Silver	\$3.35 (\$2.24)	Palladium	\$85.00 (\$40.80)

## OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentina austral	16791.0-16850.0	Ireland	3.5500-1.5018
Australia dollar	2.2731-2.2770	Malaysia	1.7355-1.7345
Bahian dollar	412.50-413.0	Malaysia	2.7820-2.7830
Brazil cruzeiro	0.8075-0.8175	Norway	1.2883-1.2873
Cypriot pound	8.9625-8.9725	Sweden	1.1002-1.1012
Finland markka	3.0825-3.0925	Switzerland	61.0000-61.0050
French franc	110.50-110.55	Taiwan	4.370-4.380
Hong Kong dollar	13.6580-13.6680	Denmark	4.6500-4.6200
Indian rupee	33.91-34.31	West Germany	1.8870-1.8880
Japanese yen	160.00-160.00	Japan	1.4370-1.4380

ECGD: Fixed Rate Sterling Option Scheme. Make-up day: Dec 31, 1993. Agreed rates Jan 26, 1991 to Feb 26, 1991: Scheme I: 14.54%, Scheme II & III: 15.09%. Reference rate Dec 1, 1990 to Dec 31, 1990: Scheme IV & V: 13.843%.

## LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

FT-SE 100	Period	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume	
Previous open interest: 3024	Mar 91	2452.0	2460.0	2452.0	2452.0	7139	
	Mar 91	2452.0	2460.0	2452.0	2452.0	340	
	Mar 91	2452.0	2460.0	2452.0	2452.0	2181.0	60
	Mar 91	2452.0	2460.0	2452.0	2452.0	2181.0	60
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	Mar 91	2452.0	2460.0	2452.0	2452.0	2181.0	60
	Mar 91	2452.0	2460.0	2452.0	2452.0	2181.0	60
	Mar 91						

1500-1550







## FT-SE 100 VOLUMES

Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000	Vol '000
Abbey Nat	2,443	Bk Scotland	374	CU	805	GRN	898	L&G	1,438
Abn-Lyons	4,358	Blue Circle	1,089	Courtauld	387	Guinness	2,083	Lloyds	2,851
Anglo	688	BOC	841	Deputy	357	Hamm A	350	Lomb	2,650
ASDA	4,158	Bosch	1,216	Enterprise	1,140	H & C	5,835	Lucas	4,050
AS Foods	337	Br Aero	722	European	352	M&S	2,877	M&S	2,877
Aviva	3,822	Br Airways	2,175	Farmer	1,257	Maxwell	281	Midland	2,212
BAA	2,351	Br Gas	8,100	Gan Acc	726	MEPC	280	Nat West	2,576
BET	4,363	Br Parcel	13,578	GEC	3,289	M&P	2,712	N W Water	707
BIR	2,688	Br Steel	1,505	Glaxo	2,488	Midland	2,212	P&O	2,013
BAT	2,110	Br Telecom	6,870	Grand Met	7,850	Ladbrokes	2,137	Pearson	224
Bendys	1,911	Burnham Cat	433	GLS A	165	Land Sec	1,258		
Beas	3,947	C&W	1,580	GRE	771				
BICC	290	Cadbury	2,391						

## The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited and HSBC Holdings plc

### Reorganisation of group structure

At a hearing today of the petition to the Supreme Court of Hong Kong for the sanctioning of a Scheme of Arrangement (the "Scheme") dated 1 February 1991 between The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited ("HSBC") and the holders of its shares of HK\$2.50 each, the Scheme was sanctioned by order of the Supreme Court (the "Court Order").

It was stated in the circular to shareholders of HSBC dated 1 February 1991, relating to the group reorganisation, that the necessary action to make the Scheme effective would be taken only if the Boards of HSBC and HSBC Holdings plc ("HSBC Holdings") were satisfied with regard to (i) the listing by The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the "Hong Kong Stock Exchange") and The International Stock Exchange of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland Limited (the "London Stock Exchange") of the shares in HSBC Holdings to be issued pursuant to the Scheme, and (ii) the obtaining of all authorisations, exemptions, licences, orders, grants, recognitions, confirmations, consents, clearances, permissions and approvals as the Boards of HSBC and HSBC Holdings deemed to be necessary or desirable for and in respect of the Scheme. The Boards of HSBC and HSBC Holdings are now satisfied as to the above matters, subject only to the grant of listing by the Council of the London Stock Exchange at a hearing of the Council to be held on 27 March 1991.

The final condition to be satisfied for the Scheme to become effective and binding on all HSBC shareholders is the delivery of an office copy of the Court Order by HSBC to the Registrar of Companies in Hong Kong for registration. The Court Order is expected to be so delivered on 2 April 1991 and the Scheme is accordingly expected to become effective on that date.

Shareholders of HSBC are reminded that the Register of Shareholders of HSBC will close at 4.00 pm on Thursday, 28 March 1991, so that shareholders' entitlements to new shares in HSBC Holdings can be determined. Any person who has acquired HSBC shares but who has not lodged the share transfer (together with the relevant share certificates) with the Registrars, Central Registration Hong Kong Limited, Hopewell Centre, 19th Floor, 183 Queen's Road East, Hong Kong, should do so before 4.00 pm on 28 March 1991. The last day of dealings in HSBC shares on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange was today, 26 March 1991.

Shareholders who are already on the Register of Shareholders need take no action. Share certificates representing the HSBC Holdings shares to which holders of HSBC shares are entitled to be allotted pursuant to the Scheme are expected to be posted to such holders at their own risk on or before 6 April 1991. The first day of dealings in HSBC Holdings shares on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange and the London Stock Exchange is expected to be 8 April 1991.

By Order of the Board of  
The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking  
Corporation Limited  
R G Barber  
Secretary

By Order of the Board of  
HSBC Holdings plc  
R G Barber  
Secretary

26 March 1991

## Bull shares halted ahead of record loss

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU  
EUROPEAN BUSINESS  
CORRESPONDENT



Fauroux: pressure for aid

SHARES in Groupe Bull, the French state-owned computer group, have been suspended pending today's announcement of a record loss, now believed to be more than the Fr6 billion forecast by the company earlier this month.

Bull's plight highlights the troubles of the European computer industry, as Siemens-Nixdorf, Philips and Olivetti, the company's main European competitors, have encountered similar problems.

Shares company were suspended in Paris at Fr45 yesterday, after a 4 per cent fall from the previous day.

The loss will increase pressure on the government to grant aid to the company, as has previously been indicated

because of the competition effects, although they are permissible if used solely for restructuring.

Most of Bull's losses will be the result of a provision for a restructuring plan, which includes 9,000 job losses among the 44,000-strong workforce.

The 1990 operating loss has been forecast at about Fr2.8 billion. The loss in 1989 was Fr2.67 billion. Bull has taken advertisements in a number of French and British newspapers to prepare the markets for a loss.

The restructuring will also see Bull entering into partnerships with other companies. One of the companies likely to step in is France Telecom, the telecommunications operator, which has a 17 per cent stake in Bull, and might be persuaded to participate in the increase in capital.

## ANZ loan ratings lowered

Melbourne PROFITS at Australia and New Zealand Banking Group could be affected for several years by its huge debt load and deteriorating asset quality, an Australian credit rating agency said yesterday.

Australian Ratings, announcing a credit downgrading of the bank, said that while core profitability would strengthen in the current financial year due to improved margins, problem loans would impact badly for several years.

ANZ's net profit fell to Aus\$221.5 million (€97.3 million) in the year to end September, 1990 (Aus\$350.7 million). Provisions for bad debts rose to Aus\$793.2 million (Aus\$307.8 million).

Australian Ratings lowered ANZ's long term debt rating to AA minus from AA. (Reuters)

## LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Call				Put				Call				Put				Call				Put										
Series	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Series	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Series	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Series	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
ABX Lysine	200	22	34	50	12	27	31	RTZ	420	130	15	-	14	3	-	Runner	220	1	9	14	25	27	31	220	1	9	14	25	27	31
(512)	200	22	34	50	12	27	31	(540)	420	130	150	189	3	17	21	R-Runner	220	16	-	-	-	-	-	220	16	-	-	-	-	-
ASDA	200	14	16	29	10	18	103	Scor New	300	50	67	80	3	17	21	(560)	220	1	-	-	-	-	220	1	-	-	-	-	-	
(123)	130	4	4	9	12	9	11	(349)	330	47	53	-	24	8	-	R-Runner	220	26	31	31	31	31	31	220	26	31	31	31	31	31
B&W	140	1	1	1	1	1	1	Scor New	330	47	53	44	-	11	20	(561)	220	1	-	-	-	-	220	1	-	-	-	-	-	
(947)	1020	5	22	39	110	120	123	Scor New	330	47	53	44	-	11	20	Scor New	220	1	-	-	-	-	220	1	-	-	-	-	-	
B&W	1100	26	33	53	26	160	176	Scor New	330	47	53	44	-	11	20	Scor New	220	1	-	-	-	-	220	1	-	-	-	-	-	
(950)	300	33	40	50	10	10	11	Scor New	330	47	53	44	-	11	20	Scor New	220	1	-	-	-	-	220	1	-	-	-	-	-	
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# Fast moves and frozen images

**When the proceedings of the House of Commons were first televised in November 1989, there was much speculation about how politicians might be affected. Few mentioned the threat of "videograbbing". Yet most front and backbenchers are more likely to be videograbbed than interviewed these days.**

The videograb is an electronic technique whereby images from television are captured digitally at a high enough level of quality to enable them to be reproduced in newspapers.

Yesterday's report on the televising of the House of Commons recommended continuing to allow cameras to film debates, so the newspapers' increasing use of videograbs from Parliament is set to continue.

In areas where still photography is prohibited — such as the House of Commons — the videograb has offered newspapers' picture desks a whole new source of images. The use of the videograb was first forwarded by the Gulf war, when the images being sent back by the television news services were offering far more instant information than still photographers could achieve. "It was a television war," says Andy Kyle, the *Daily Mail's* picture editor.

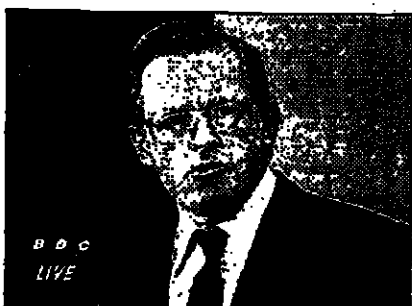
The *Daily Mail* rushed in a high-tech videograb system for the Gulf war at a cost of about £30,000. Mr Kyle says it was a good investment. "In the early days of the war, we would have had very little in the paper if it hadn't been for the television," he says. With the technology, the paper can turn around an image from television in ten minutes.

"I don't think you can any longer say that photographers can compete with the broadcasters, though there will obviously always be a place for a good picture," says Stuart Nichol, the *European's* picture editor.

With the Gulf war, videograb became a priority. Old methods, which ranged from placing a photographer and camera in front of a television, to connecting a printer to a

**The Gulf war sped up 'videograbbing', but TV companies are unhappy with the way the press is using their pictures, reports**

**Robin Hunt.**



Bridging the Gulf: TV footage of Tom King, the defence secretary, and of the war were videograbbed by newspapers.



"Last week there was a good story on Sky News about the GI who rescued a young child — that made a very good front page videograb." Another recent opportunity was Norman Lamont's Budget speech.

The current legal requirement for a newspaper to fall within the "fair dealing" provisions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act (1988) is that the videograb must be for the purpose of "reporting current events" and the image must be attributed to its source. However, as both of the main 24-hour news services — CNN and Sky News — have a semi-permanent on-screen logo, the attribution is obvious. Or should be.

A story run by Sky News on Kuwaiti soldiers raising the Kuwait flag in Kuwait City appeared in many newspapers, but the Sky logo and attribution did not appear in the case of the *Daily Mail*, the *Daily Express*, the *Daily Star* and the *Daily Mirror*.

ITN recently complained that its report showing Sandy Gall arriving in Kuwait, which was reshown on CNN (ITN sells footage to other broadcasters), had been videograbbed sporting the CNN logo by the *Daily Telegraph*.

Copyright payments are another confused area. ITN and CNN dispute Mr Nichol's statement that newspapers do not have to pay for the right to

publish. David Garland, the vice-president of corporate development at CNN, says:

"We consider it [videograbbing] to be a use of our product." An ITN spokesman says: "We don't believe newspapers should publish pictures without payment and attribution; the pictures are a consequence of our enterprise and initiative."

Newspapers can point to section 30 (2) of the Copyright Act for the right to "fair deal" with broadcasts.

However, some newspapers, including the *Daily Mail*, have entered into contracts with CNN that allow them to grab a certain number of images each month.

The debate is sure to intensify. But is this the end of the photograph? Mr Kyle says no. "When the still images started coming through from the Gulf, they won hands down."



In camera: a television image of Norman Lamont was used in *The Times* Budget coverage.

## This History is news

WHEN magazines carry stories that make the national press, they get the kind of publicity PR people would pay for. *History Today* achieved that with the news that George V was eased into death by his doctor. And when the magazine said that Louis XV of France had ordered a batch of prime 18th century English condoms for a favourite mistress, one newspaper thought it was an April Fool's spoof.

*History Today's* latest issue marks its fortieth birthday. Simon Schama, a historian of the French revolution, strikes the right note: "The magazine tries so very hard and often with brilliant success to reach beyond the academy," he says. The magazine's own history

**A magazine that thrives on scoops is celebrating its birthday**

has been chequered. It was the idea of Churchill's wartime propaganda chief, Brendan Bracken, when he was the chairman of the *Financial Times*, and was set up in 1951 as a vehicle for his personal secretary, Alan Hodge, and for *belles-lettres* Peter Quennell, who were its first joint editors.

When Mr Quennell retired in 1979, ownership passed to Longman's, but it found the magazine hard work and sold it two years later to a consortium led by John Jackson, a former deputy chairman of Central Television, and Hugh Stephenson, a former editor of the *New Statesman*, now a professor of journalism at London's City university.

*History Today* was making a profit within two years and, with a turnover of about £600,000, still does. Circulation in 1990 was 27,762, split equally between educational and private buyers.

In recent years, *History Today* has actively pursued joint ventures — from tie-ins with television companies to its new book imprint, *History Today Books*, a venture with newly-established publishers Collins and Brown.

ANDREW LYCETT

### MEDIA WATCH

## List addition

AS A new combatant — Bauer's *TV Quick* — prepares to enter the fray, how goes the television listings war? *Radio Times* claims 1.9 million sales of its current (March 23) issue, compared with 1.8 million for *TV Times*, which has reverted to its 50p cover price after three issues at 25p. That gave it sales of about 3 million on March 2, compared with 2 million for the *Radio Times*. But the overall market for television listings magazines has barely increased. *TV Quick* hopes to counter that with a £12 million advertising campaign and a target circulation of 1 million.

### Smalls fortune

WITH agencies forecasting little prospect of an upturn in the advertising market before the autumn, a glimmer of hope comes from IPC, the magazine group, which intends to increase its newly established classified department from 55 to more than 100 people by June. IPC employed 51

Grice, of the *Independent*, to set up the department last May. She has been gradually introducing small ads into IPC titles, 19 of which now carry the advertisements. Classified income is up from £3 million two years ago to an estimated £10 million and John Mellon, the chairman of IPC, hopes for £40 million in three to four years.

### Continental drift

AFTER all the talk about foreign investors lining up to share in the licence to print money, we had to wait until yesterday to hear a continental media group announce its involvement in the current ITV franchise round. CLT, a Luxembourg-based company which operates six television and nine radio channels, including Radio Luxembourg, is teaming up with EMAP, the magazine publisher, to bid for the Anglia television franchise. The chairman of the consortium, which has at least two other undeclared members, is Lord Prior, the chairman of General Electric Company. The chief executive is Jeremy Fox, the chairman of Scottish Television's American subsidiary, and Linda Agran, formerly of Euston Films and LWT, is the programme director.

### Musical chairs

FANCY a career as a radio presenter? Wait for the incumbent to take a holiday. Woman journalists hoping to boost their chances when BBC Radio 2's Saturday morning presenter Anne Robinson takes an Easter holiday are former *Daily Express* news editor Philippa Kennedy (who will host the show on March 30), Bridget Rowe, the editor of *TV Times* (April 6), and Eve Pollard, the editor of the *Sunday*



Bridget Rowe: presenter *Mirror* (April 13). Anne Robinson, a regular *Daily Mirror* columnist, has fronted the programme for four years.

### Winning the peace

WITH the Iraq story refusing to die, guess which British television organisations maintain representatives in Baghdad? Not BBC or ITN. However, the broadcast news agencies are proving their worth. Vinnews (owned by Reuters, the BBC and NBC) has Nari Bouran and Rachel al Douhahi. Worldwide Television News (part of ITN, ABC and Channel 9 of Australia) not only has its cameraman Michel Haj there, but also the only satellite link.

A.L.

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# An old mill nest egg by the stream

Despite the slump in house prices, waterside properties can be a better investment than inland homes. Christopher Warman reports

Properties that overlook water, whether by the sea, a river, a canal or a lake, have that definable extra that gives an added attraction and guarantees permanent demand. The occasional disadvantage of damp is either ignored or accepted by those for whom the view is the main consideration.

These properties are more expensive, of course. A house or flat with a good view of water can cost 20 to 50 per cent more than its landlocked equivalent.

This is as true abroad as in Britain, and the point is emphasised by Waterside Properties International, which covers most of France and has extended to the United States and the Caribbean. The company estimates that the water factor adds as much as £150,000 to properties priced up to £500,000, although the premium ceases to be as important above that figure.

In southern France, water presents an attractive way of viewing properties in the Languedoc-Roussillon area. Clients are offered a week's cruise on a barge on the Canal du Midi. Every day the barge ties up at a village, allowing clients to visit anything

from £30,000 cottages to £500,000 châteaux.

David Kay, of Waterside Properties International, says most demand comes in the £70,000-£200,000 range, but as the company also covers commercial property, including hotels, trout farms and vineyards, it serves both businesses and private buyers.

In Britain, Carter Jonas puts the added value of a waterside property at about 20 per cent. "With ever increasing planning control in such sensitive areas, the number of owners stays constant, leaving the lucky few with an increasingly valuable asset," the agent explains.

Carter Jonas is selling several river or seaside properties in Suffolk. At Levington, a modern five-bedroom bungalow with two acres and spectacular views over the River Orwell and the Suffolk yacht harbour, is £210,000, and a nearby two-bedroom cottage with almost identical views is for sale at £59,500, a price that makes it attractive to weekend sailors.

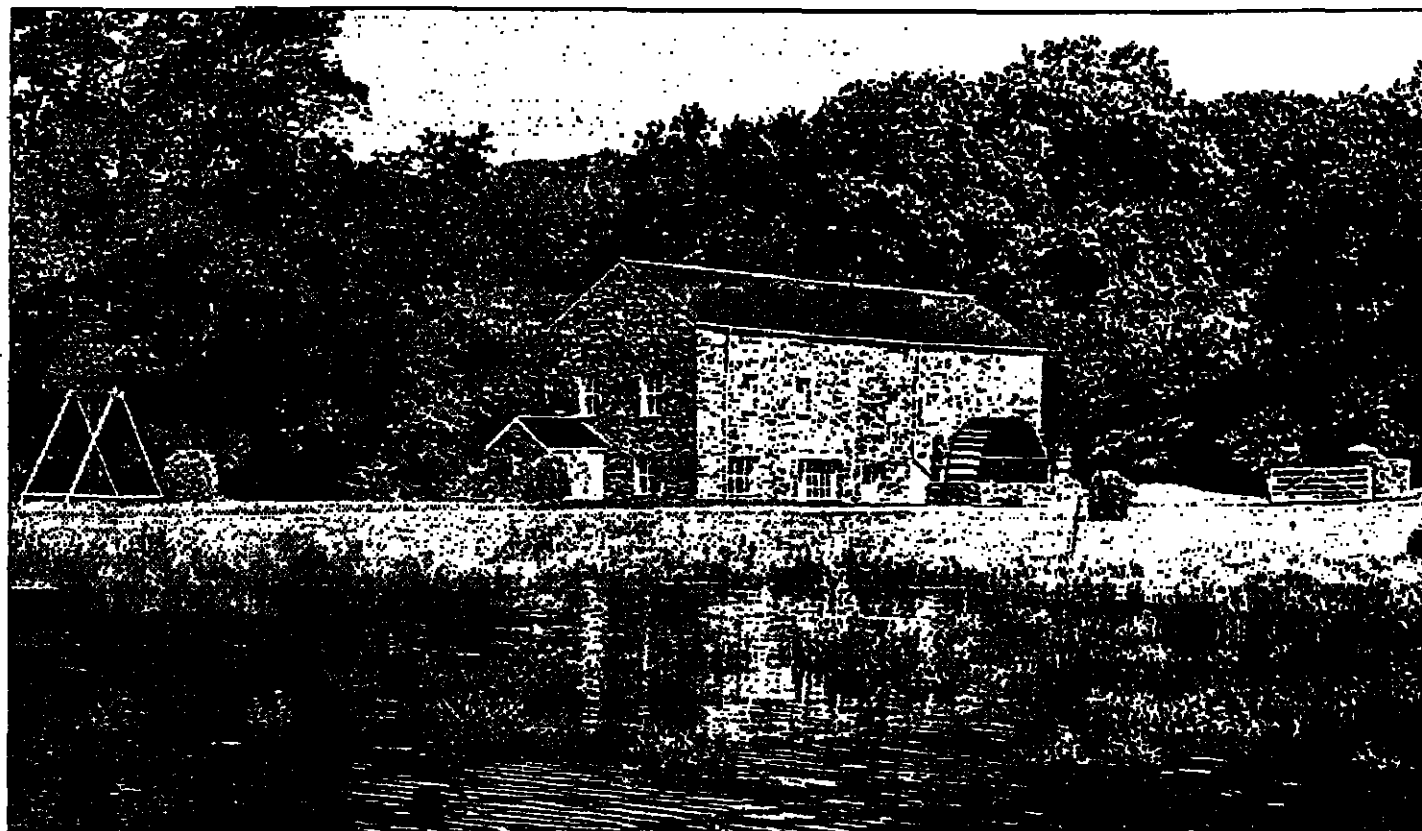
Further along the peninsula at Shortley is Mole End Cottage at £88,000. The cottage needs renovation, although it has a new damp-proof course. A three-bedroom house in Shortley, with

views of the Stour meeting the Orwell, is for sale at £75,000.

Quayside View at Forder, near Saltash, Cornwall, is a refurbished house built in the Sixties, with three or four bedrooms. Most of its rooms overlook Forder Creek. The house has its own quay and mooring, and the owner has to pay £28 a year to the Duchy of Cornwall for the use of the riverbed. The property, at a price cut from £195,000 to £179,950, is available through Griddle Booth & Taylor, part of the Royal group of agencies.

The agent GA Town & Country is selling Blackwater House at Bucklers Hard, Beaulieu, Hampshire, which is near the Solent shore and has views of the river. The Grade II house dates from the 16th century, has six bedrooms and three reception rooms, and stands in two acres. Its two ponds are home to about 20 pairs of ducks and geese, including emperor, lesser whistlers and Canada geese. The ponds are available separately. The agent wants more than £485,000 for the house.

On the Solent shore the same agent is selling Inchmery House,



On the waterfront: The Meadows, Isle of Man, at £1 million, is set in 15 acres, including a trout lake and salmon fishing in the River Glass

until three years ago the home of Edmund de Rothschild. The house, built in 1780, occupies an exceptional vantage point on the coastline, looking across to the Isle of Wight. Inchmery House has six double bedrooms, nine single bedrooms, a tennis court, a swimming pool and a staff flat. The 25 acres also contain two cottages. The price is about £2,500,000.

The South may have the greater pull for waterside properties, but there are some spectacular examples further north. Jackson-Stops & Staff is selling Haulfryn, which it

describes as the jewel in the crown of Abersoch, the Llyn Peninsula resort at Gwynedd, North Wales. The stone house, set in several acres of subtropical gardens, with terraces leading down to the dunes and the sea, has been divided into four apartments.

The apartments range in price from £165,000 to £200,000 for three or four bedrooms, and every one has a quarter share in a guest chalet and beach hut.

Jackson-Stops & Staff's Chester office is also offering The Meadows at Tromode, near Douglas, on

the Isle of Man. The Meadows, set in 15 acres, which include a four-acre trout lake and trout and salmon fishing in the River Glass, is for sale at £1 million jointly with Cowley Groves, of Douglas.

Another property on the agent's list is Vale House, Spark Bridge, near Ulverston, Cumbria. Vale House, in 1.5 acres, has an old mill race and salmon and trout fishing from its grounds, fronting the River Cocker. The house, dating from 1790, with four bedrooms and a cottage wing, is £350,000. In London, Parliament Gate,

opposite the Boat Race finishing post at Mortlake, is a development of 14 Regency-style houses and apartments by Trafalgar Metropolitan Homes and Ideal Homes London. The prices for the two-bedroom apartments start at £195,000 and for the houses of three and four bedrooms at £295,000.

Further information: Waterside Properties International, 081-444 0400; Carter Jonas, 0473 212656; Griddle Booth & Taylor, 0752 847151; GA Town & Country, 0590 675025; Jackson-Stops & Staff, 0244 328361; Ideal Homes, 0932 350555.

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**Scotland today sees the opening of a flagship building in its biggest inner-city regeneration project, reports Christopher Warman**

**Royal blessing for Scotland's Yard headquarters: a model of the building at Atlantic Quay, Glasgow, to be opened by the Queen today**

□ A £20 million office centre of linked octagonal buildings is planned at the Waterlink company on part of the former Ansells Brewery site beside one of Birmingham's busiest commuter routes at Aston Cross. The 125,000 sq ft development will be the most prominent scheme in the 330-acre Waterlink area, near the city centre. Waterlink, a consortium of developers Bryant, Douglas, Tarmac and Wimpey, is seeking outline planning permission for the buildings on five acres designed by architects Peter Hing and Jones, which will form part of the million sq ft of offices and leisure facilities to be built in the next five years.

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# Lynagh looks further than the bottom line

Hong Kong

REVOLUTION is rife. The rugby union players of the world are at the gates of the final fortress of amateurism, along with their personal managers, marketing agents and investment advisers.

Michael Lynagh is as much of a superstar as the sport has: he is Australian; he scores tries and kicks goals; he is blond, visible and articulate. But he is tempted by all those dollar bills being waved in front of the players?

"Well," he says, "it's not quite like that. There's just not that kind of money in the game. I suppose sometimes we will be paid for playing, but it can only be at international level."

"There's just not the money lower down. Let me give you an example: for a Queensland state match against New South Wales, we get a crowd of 17,000, for a good club match in Brisbane, we get about 1,500. That doesn't generate enough money to pay players."

"But it will happen for Test matches. And it will be good for rugby union. It will encourage the high-profile players to continue in the game. They'll want to train harder and play better. Younger players will try to emulate them. And the game would have to improve. More people will want to watch us; more people will want to identify with us."

"The payments and the growth will have to be done in the right way. They will have to be monitored carefully. But it has to come."

The Australian interpretation of the International Rugby Football Board (IRFB) regulation 4.3.2 appears quite simple: you can be paid for anything except playing. What riches has this meant for Lynagh?

"I write a column each week for the *Sunday Sun* in Brisbane," he says. "I had clearance from the

Tom Clarke meets a rugby union international who refuses to cash in as the walls of amateurism come tumbling down

Australian Rugby Union for that, and the payment comes direct to me but, before the changes, I used to do it for free. I just wanted to help build up interest in the game."

His only other perk is the loan of a Mazda car for three years because he conducts coaching clinics organised by Queensland for young players.

How enticing is rugby league? "Yes, I had offers last year from St Helens and North Sydney, and I had to think pretty seriously about them," he says. "They were talking about very large amounts of money."

Lynagh does not say how much. But he has to be worth at least the same as John Gallagher, who went from rugby union in New Zealand to Leeds rugby league club in a deal worth £400,000 over four years.

Lynagh estimates that a top-level Australian league player receives Aus \$150,000 (£65,000) for the domestic season alone. "I turned them down for three reasons," Lynagh says. "One, I enjoy playing for my country and I feel I've got more to contribute to the game."

"Two, I've got a good job that pays the bills." He is head of the Queensland division of a property investment company.

"It's a proper job," he says. "It has to be when you're handling a budget of Aus \$110 million (£45 million) a year."

"And three, I like living in Brisbane and I'm not prepared to give it up for five years."

He cannot speak for the rest of Australia's leading rugby union

players, but "nobody out of the Test team has gone over to rugby league in the last year. After the World Cup, it might be different; they will have been in the public eye and maybe rugby league will want them."

Would he consider another offer? "I doubt if they'll come again — and, in any case, it wouldn't be as big as it was," he says. "I'm 27 now and they're looking for younger players."

"What everybody has to understand is that rugby union [in Australia] is not a No. 1 sport. In Queensland and New South Wales we are second to rugby league; in Victoria we are second to Australian Rules."

"So even if the whole game was professionalised, our opportunities for advertising and endorsements are very limited."

The rugby union family is growing; the IRFB has 44 members, 24 of whom were at the Hong Kong seven last week as the guests of the sponsors, Cathay Pacific and Hongkong Bank.

The tournament was a talk-show as much as a festival of seven-a-side rugby. Will Carling, captain of England and the Barbarians, lamented the lack of authority of the IRFB. "If it really is an international governing body, then it has to act like one. It has to be decisive, not inconclusive," he said.

Others yearned for recognition of rugby union as a world game rather than a British one, and wondered why the IRFB, even after a busy week of talks in London, could not manage to have a senior representative here for at least a day.

The game is changing. The nice guys, the Lynaghs and Carlings, are still moderate in their views. But one has to ask whether the IRFB sees the rule book as more important than the people who play the game.



Lynagh: still gets a kick out of the Australian amateur game

## HOCKEY N Ireland cruise to semi-final stages

By SYDNEY FRANKIN

NORTHERN Ireland qualified for the semi-finals of the British Universities Sports Federation championships, which began yesterday at Liverpool, after securing two victories in pool A.

The Irish made sure of their place in the last four with an exciting 3-1 win over Wales, whose hopes were extinguished when Gregg Sturitt converted a short corner five minutes before the end. Wales had made a spirited revival early in the second half when Danny Jones scored from a short corner. However, Sturitt and Sturitt, from a penalty stroke, had given Northern Ireland a 2-0 lead.

Earlier in the day the Irish had beaten UAU 1-0 with two goals by Anderson and one from Sturitt. UAU 1 paid for defensive lapses and lost their way in the second half.

London, the holders, got a flying start in pool B with a 3-0 victory over Cambridge. McGuire scored twice and McCallister adding the other. In the same pool Oxford achieved a 3-1 win over Scotland. Pitt, with two, and Grimes scored the goals for Oxford with Ward replying for Scotland.

UAU 1 made amends with a 4-1 victory over UAU 2. Webster, with two, and Sexton and Morton scored for the winners, leaving Houghton to reply for UAU 2 from a penalty stroke.

Scotland's hopes were revived with a 2-1 win over Cambridge. Ward scored two goals, one from a penalty stroke, and Varnish replying for Cambridge. In the last few minutes Crobie, the Scottish goalkeeper, made two splendid saves.

Philip McGuire distinguished himself by scoring two goals for London in their 3-2 win against Oxford, which put them in a strong position.

He equalised, after Grimes had put Oxford in the lead, by converting a penalty stroke. McCallister then forced his way through the Oxford defence to score a well-taken goal and give London the lead.

Oxford tried unavailingly to get back on equal terms but London persevered and went further ahead through McGuire. Oxford however did not give up and in the dying minutes Ralph came bursting through on the right to score with an angular shot. Oxford are today due to meet Cambridge.

It looks as if London, Oxford and Scotland could all finish with the same number of points and the outcome for a place in the semi-finals could be decided on goal difference.

Results: Pool A: Northern Ireland 3, UAU 1 0; Wales 0, UAU 2 1; Northern Ireland 3, UAU 1 0; Northern Ireland 3, UAU 1 0; Northern Ireland 3, UAU 1 0.

Pool B: Cambridge 3, UAU 2 0; London 3, UAU 2 0; London 3, UAU 2 0; London 3, UAU 2 0; London 3, UAU 2 0.

England have selected a training squad of 25 players in preparation for the European Cup in Paris from June 12 to 23. Robert Clift is unavailable for business reasons.

SOAD, a national (Northern), 1. Clift (Northern), 2. Clift (Northern), 3. Clift (Northern), 4. Clift (Northern), 5. Clift (Northern), 6. Clift (Northern), 7. Clift (Northern), 8. Clift (Northern), 9. Clift (Northern), 10. Clift (Northern).

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## Truce on hats but BCF not budging

PETER BRYAN finds that matters of cycling helmets have come to a head

THE world's leading professional riders, with a degree of encouragement from Greg LeMond, the three-time winner of the Tour de France, have won the first round of their campaign to decide if and when they should wear safety helmets.

A series of demonstrations at early season races in Europe to protest against a rule making safety helmets compulsory has ended in victory for the riders following an about turn by the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI), the world's governing body.

The professionals have claimed that the "hard shell" hats are uncomfortable in hot weather and unbearable to use in the high mountains. Because he removed his shell on the climb up Mont Faron during the Paris to Nice race, Greg LeMond, the French rider, was disqualified. Moreau said that the perspiration generated by the plastic helmet ran into his eyes, making it not only a painful experience but one that could have caused him to crash.

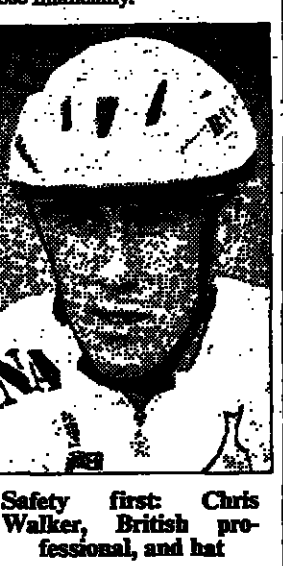
His disqualification increased the riders' objections but they were prepared to call time on the matter when UCI, but for the moment at least, hard hats will still be introduced as planned by the British Cycling Federation (BCF) on April 1 for both professionals and amateurs.

"We believe that we should insist on riders using the best possible head protection available and there is no doubt that the new designs are preferable to the old padded leather strips, secured by a chin strap," Jim Hendry, the chief executive of the BCF, said yesterday.

Britain will become the third country at which safety helmets are mandatory. They have been for some years in Belgium and the United States.

Tony Doyle, of Britain, a former world champion, believes that helmets make sense. "I wouldn't even go training without one," he said, having been involved in several accidents.

Chris Lillywhite, Banana-Falcon's first road race winner of the season at Eastbury last Sunday, is also a subscriber to protecting one's head but he believes that the decision should be down to the rider. By turning away from shells, many continental riders are losing financially.



Safety first: Chris Walker, British professional, and hat

## Times man praised

CHRIS Thain, writing for *The Times*, was commended in the Sports Reporter of the Year category of the British Sports Journalism awards yesterday for his series on sport in Romania, which was published in January 1990. Bill Bradshaw, of *The People*, was Sports Reporter of the Year for his reporting of financial irregularities at Swindon Town football club.

The principal award — British Sports Journalist of the Year — went to Patrick Collins, of the *Mail On Sunday*, for the second successive year. The Sports Feature Writer of the year was jointly won by Brough Scott, of *The Independent* on Sunday, and Hugh McIlveney, of *The Observer*.

The awards are organised by the Sports Council and the Sports Writers' Association and supported by Minet.

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ROWING

## Agony on the faces exposed

By MIKE ROSEWELL  
ROWING CORRESPONDENT

THE Oxford and Cambridge boats will be 74th heavier and about £17,000 more valuable apiece when they take to the water on Saturday. Both were fitted yesterday with remote television mini cameras, held on stalks behind the coxswains' heads. Viewers will be treated to close-ups of facial agony as the race unfolds.

There was little agony for either of the crews in their morning outings yesterday. Cambridge were on the water for less than half an hour and, although Oxford rowed a round trip to Kew from Putney, they only twice went above 20 strokes a minute before doing two six-stroke stakeout starts. The Oxford coach, Mike Spracklen, was trying to smooth out technical problems. An initially ragged row did improve, although blade heights and speed of entry in the bows need more work.

Both crews concentrated on starts in the afternoon. Cambridge, after a technically impressive warm-up, produced two swift departures from the stakeout, reaching a rate of 44. Oxford's less-polished warm-up technique was apparent. Again, though, they were transformed when rowing and their starts, when they touched 46, were clear and marginally more powerful.

TODAY'S OUTINGS: Oxford, 8.30am and 4.30pm; Cambridge, 7.30am, 10am and 4pm.

CRICKET

## Dodemaide swings match to earn champions' visit

OVERSEAS REVIEW BY SIMON WILDE

NEWS of the crowning of Australia's state champions has not been traditionally of great interest to the average county player. This year, though, is different. Victoria, who beat New South Wales by eight wickets yesterday, not only won the Sheffield Shield but also the right to meet the county champions at the end of the summer.

Victoria were not expected to be the visitors for a 50-overs match on September 22 and a four-day fixture from September 23 to 26. The two seasons before this they finished bottom of the table and had not won the

## Sponsorship extended for under-15 event

THE Under-15 championship, thought to be the largest outdoor club cricket competition in the world, is to be sponsored by Sun Life of Canada for a further three years (Ivo Tennant writes). Nearly 1,000 clubs and 25,000 schoolboys and girls take part each summer.

The firm hopes that its commitment "will help to counter-balance the tragedy of the game's neglect in our schools". Each county runs its own competition and the winners progress to knock-out rounds, which culminate in finals on August 29 at Basingstoke.

Richard Baker, general man-

ager of Sun Life of Canada, said: "We are heartened that players such as Atherton, Hussain and Ramprakash, who have participated in the championship over the past six years, are now making their mark at national level."

Keith Andrew, chief executive of the National Cricket Association, said that the championship was bound to have a spin-off for schools cricket. "Publicity has been generated through 100 boys going on tour of Australia but no one seems to recognise that this competition involves thousands of school-boys," he said.

Glenn Turner, the former opening batsman, has refused to become a New Zealand Test selector. Turner declined on the grounds that the job would take up too much time but it is understood he was unwilling to work with Don Neely, the chairman. Bob Carmichael, national coach, said he does not want to visit Pakistan, has been replaced.

Sheffield Shield scores: New South Wales 228 and 226; Victoria 124 and 124; Western Australia 91 not out.

decisive part with the ball for the second successive match. Dodemaide took five for 25 to reduce New South Wales, the holders, to 134 all out and left Victoria a target of 239 to win. After losing two early wickets, they were seen home by a partnership of 212 between Jamie Siddons (124 not out) and Wayne Phillips (91 not out).

Siddons, who took 245 off New South Wales in November, narrowly failed to win the Sheffield Shield player of the year award, which went to Stuart Law, of Queensland. Siddons was third. In South Africa, the Currie Cup award went to Mandy Yachad, the Northern Transvaal captain.

Two adjustments in the Patiala court have left the dispute between Delhi and Punjab over their Ranji Trophy match unresolved. Attempts are being made at an out-of-court settlement but it is now likely that the tournament will be carried over until next season.

The conference highlighted the need for awareness training to alert teachers to the requirements of people with differing disabilities. Once the barriers were removed, most teachers felt that common sense would show how to use their skills under new circumstances and adapt their sessions to the needs of various participants.

The BSAD national operation's officer, Louise Richards, who co-ordinated the event, sees it as a springboard for a new fitness movement among the disabled, covering everything from weight-training to aerobics. She said she was

delighted that the KFA approached the BSAD for help in involving disabled people rather than having to be asked, as happens with many governing bodies.

Richards says the enthusiasm displayed by members of the disability groups at the conference "just goes to show that there's a huge, unexplored market for fitness out there. Now we want to see health clubs and gyms and leisure centres improve their facilities so that everyone can enjoy the benefits of increased fitness."

The biggest obstacle to development is that keep fit is a nebulous concept. "Keep fit covers so many different activities and it doesn't have a showcase in the same way a sport that has a national championship does," Richards says. "That also makes it harder to attract sponsorship money to fund a development programme."

At the moment the leisure fitness market is unco-ordinated as far as disabled people are concerned, so a working party has been formed to look at ways of setting up a viable structure. The BSAD is working with the Sports Council on a national development plan on movement and dance for disabled people (which in fact covers a far wider spectrum of activities than its title suggests) and the KFA has been invited to join the discussions. The demand is there, the will is there, all that is needed now is action.

SPORT FOR THE DISABLED

## Adapted keep-fit teaching needed

By JANE WYATT

A RAPID growth in various forms of keep fit among people with disabilities is predicted following the first Keep Fit For All conference in Nottingham. More than 70 delegates attended the conference, which was organised by the Keep Fit Association (KFA) and the British Sports Association for the Disabled (BSAD) in an attempt to bring disability organisations into closer contact with the teachers of keep fit.

The BSAD says it recognises that not everyone is sports-minded or competitive by nature, but that people are becoming increasingly aware of the significance of fitness in terms of improved overall physical and mental well-being. For people with disabilities, fitness is often more, not less, important, both for ease of daily living and for improving or stabilising certain conditions.

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It was then appropriate to point out that suspension had to remain provisional in nature. The provisional protection which was assured by community law to parties before national courts could not vary according to whether they disputed the compatibility of provisions of national law with Community law or the validity of a national law with Community law.

In the event that the Court of Justice were not already seized of the matter, the national court was therefore required to refer that question setting out the grounds upon which it believed the measure might be invalid.

The uniform application of Community law was a fundamental requirement of the Community legal order; it therefore implied that any act of execution of administrative measures based upon a Community regulation on the ground of doubts which it might have on the validity of that regulation.

It had first to be pointed out that a stay of execution of a disputed act could not be granted unless the circumstances of fact and law relied upon by the applicants had led the national court to the conviction that there were serious doubts as to the validity of the Community regulation upon which the disputed administrative act was based.

Only the possibility of a finding of invalidity, which was exclusively for the Court of Justice, could justify granting a suspension.

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## European Law Report

# Power of national courts to order suspension of administrative acts

Zuckerfabrik Saderdith-marschen AG and Another v Hauptzollamt Itzehoe and Another  
Joined Cases C-143/88 and C-92/89

Before O.Due, President and Judges G. F. Mancini, J. C. Moynihan de Almeida, G. C. Rodriguez Iglesias, M. Diez de Velasco, Sir Gordon Slynn, C. N. Kakouris, R. Joliet, F. A. Schockweiler, F. Grévisse and M. Zuleeg

Advocate General C.O. Lenz (Opinion November 8, 1990)

Since the power of national courts to order the suspension of an administrative act of a national authority which was based upon a Community measure whose validity was in doubt corresponded to the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice to suspend a contested act pursuant to article 185 of the EEC Treaty, such national courts could order such a suspension only under the same conditions as those applied by the Court of Justice in interim measures proceedings.

The Court of Justice of the European Communities so held in replying to questions submitted to it for a preliminary ruling on the interpretation of article 189 of the EEC Treaty by the Finanzgericht (Finance Court),

Hamburg, and the Finanzgericht, Düsseldorf.

By decisions dated October 19 and 20, 1987, the applicants, who were sugar producers had been required to pay sums totalling DM3,657,955 by way of a special elimination levy pursuant to Council Regulation No 1914/87 of July 2, 1987 introducing a special elimination levy in the sugar sector for the 1986/1987 marketing year (OJ 1987 No L183 p5).

Following unsuccessful complaints lodged by the applicants against the Hauptzollamt [Principal Customs Office] Itzehoe and Paderborn the applicants lodged proceedings before the Finanzgerichten which stayed the proceedings and referred a number of questions on the interpretation of article 189 of the EEC Treaty and the validity of Regulation No 1914/87 to the European Court of Justice for a preliminary ruling.

In its judgment the European Court ruled as follows:

The Finanzgericht, Hamburg, first asked, in substance, whether the second paragraph of article 189 of the EEC Treaty was to be interpreted as preventing national courts from granting suspension of a national administrative act adopted on

the basis of a Community regulation.

It was appropriate to emphasise, in the first place, that the provisions of the second paragraph of article 189 could not be interpreted as preventing national courts from granting suspension of a national administrative act adopted on

the basis of a Community regulation.

Where the administrative implementation of Community regulations was the responsibility of national authorities, the judicial protection guaranteed by Community law included the right of parties to challenge, as an ancillary matter, the legality of those regulations before a national court and to invite that court to submit preliminary questions to the Court of Justice.

That right might be compromised if, pending a judgment of the Court, which alone had jurisdiction to find that a Community regulation was invalid (see Case 314/85 Foto-Frost (The Times December 30, 1987; [1987] ECR 4189)) the person concerned was not in a position, where certain conditions were filled, to obtain a decision suspending the application of the disputed regulation to him.

As the Court had pointed out in Foto-Frost, a reference for a decision on the validity of a Community act, like an action for annulment, constituted a



# Bold Monk can make amends

By MANDARIN

THE Kingsbridge trainer David Barons, whose Seagram is strongly fancied for next week's Grand National, should be on the mark at Worcester today with Bold Monk in the Sonny Somers Handicap Chase.

Bold Monk, recently upgraded from novice class, blotted his copybook at Uttoxeter earlier this month when falling well behind in the race won by Beau Charm.

Previous to this, the nine-

year-old has enjoyed a successful campaign over the bigger obstacles, which include victories at Wolverhampton and Plumpton.

With just 10 stone to carry in today's three-mile contest, Bold Monk can make the most of the weight concession he receives from five of his more experienced rivals, who include Glenside Jerry, Mister Hartigan and Leagume.

Glenside Jerry and Mister Hartigan could never get in a blow at Omeria in the Fulke Walwyn Kim Muir Challenge.

Chase at the Cheltenham festival meeting, finishing ninth and eleventh respectively.

Previously, Mister Hartigan had run well when chasing home Rubika over today's course and distance where Leagume was pulled up, and the John Edwards-trained chaser may give Bold Monk most to do.

The best bet at this meeting, however, should be Josh Gifford's Bollinger to defy top weight in the Levy Board Novices' Handicap Hurdle. This talented five-year-old

was a credible second to Ostura at Warwick last time, and had earlier shown his liking for today's course when gamely holding off Chris Broad's subsequent Chetworth winner Mudahim in a novice event.

Syrus P Turntable does not look overburdened with 10st 7lb and Martin Pipe's Baksmi will be supported, but I am content to rely on Bollinger, who is my nap.

Gifford may also have another success in the Newland Novices' Hurdle

with Maestro Paul, who was fourth in Mudahim's Chetworth event, while Pipe can capture the EBF Intermediate Handicap Chase with Sea Island.

On the Flat at Catterick Bridge, Geoff Lewis's Epsom raider Crook's Courage can collect the Gods Solution Handicap, despite the presence of David Barron's evergreen sprinter, in whose name the race has been honoured.

**Blinkered first time**  
CATERICK BRIDGE: 4.15 Race Day.

# Levy Board prepares to sell three prime courses

By RICHARD EVANS

million pound boost to racing's depleted coffers by the mid-Nineties was one of the few hopeful notes contained in the Levy Board's annual policy statement, published yesterday.

Racing's paymasters have already said they are cutting prime money and the number of fixtures in 1992 because of the effect of the recession on betting turnover and levy - but yesterday they warned voters could be on the way. The Levy Board has forecast that leviable betting turnover will increase by six per cent this year and next, but there are fears this may not be realised.

St John said: "If these increases do not materialise - and the recession may be biting deeper than previously anticipated - we would be forced to make further economies as we have only the thinnest of financial cushions."

While Sir John denied being racing's underdog, "I don't see as realistic as any other industry in the country," he admitted it was a difficult time for the sport and the Levy Board.

The impact of cutting back race meetings from 1,136 this year to 1,000 in 1992 and pruning prize-money from £24 million to £21.7 million next year will not be spelt out until July when the Levy Board decides how to fund the reduced fixture list.

Although the Levy Board wants, in principle, to see the existing 59 racecourses maintained, "it cannot, however, support all racecourses regardless of cost," the policy statement said.

Sir John sidestepped saying how many racecourses are vulnerable and threatened by closure. "Some of them do have a difficult row to hoe but one should not assume any of them have an impossible row to hoe."

With the Levy Board anxious to protect minimum race values of £2,150 on the Flat, £2,900 for chases and £2,150 for hurdles as well as maintaining the international competitiveness and appeal of top races, any further fall in the levy can only add to pressure facing prize-money to fund the fixtures.

Sir John is almost embarrassed by the praise he has received from the bookmaking industry since taking over as chairman of the Levy Board in January, but soon he will be testing their goodwill and admiration by negotiating a new levy scheme.

He confirmed the Levy Board's wish to obtain a three-year deal with the bookmakers - and will be seeking increased funding for racing.

"If we are to get a one-year agreement, let alone a three-year agreement, we have got to get agreement at levels that satisfy all of the parties. That probably means we shall be seeking to look for a larger settlement than we have been getting," he said.



Sparrow: safeguarding sale with guarantees

# Scudamore misses winning ride on game Star's Delight

By RICHARD EVANS

NO sales prospectus for Scudamore Park can hope to match the thrills, spills and excitement of the EBF Intermediate Handicap Chase at Worcester yesterday, which centred on the Queen Mother, champion jockey Peter Scudamore and one of the forbidding Railway fences.

Scudamore arrived at the course with every chance of catching Richard Duwoody at the head of the jockeys' table, only to go down with the delayed but very painful effects of a nasty fall from Cheltenham National, Star's Delight, when the champion jockey landed very hard on his bottom.

"I've got a bruised left buttock and it is very painful. It is so stiff I can't even sit down. I rode after the fall and also worked yesterday morning and this morning, but I will have to rest up now and give it a chance to heal."

Hopefully, I will be back on Saturday, although I am not sure where that will be yet," he said.

The enforced absence from the saddle cost Scudamore one winner when Star's Delight displayed the most generous of intentions to win the Royal Ordnance Chase.

After just failing to give Aidino 25lb in the Grand Annual Challenge Cup Chase at the Cheltenham festival, Star's Delight was faced with giving 27lb or more to his four opponents.

Celtic won by seven lengths and Henrietta Knight will now aim her improving chaser at the standard Cheltenham Festival. Future Champion Novices Chase at Ayr on April 20 when he is likely to meet Remittance Man, winner of the Arkle.

Bought from Arthur Stephenson, Golden Celtic shows little at home in the North-west, but he is likely to be a contender for the Arkle.

With the third Railway fence having claimed the life of Prince Nepal, favourite for the Royal Arkle Cup, was cruising behind Rascal's Hammer and looked certain to have been involved in the finish.

But his exit left the leader about 20 lengths clear and enabled his jockey Jon Trice-Rolph to win the Gold Cup for the third successive year. In the end, he had only two lengths to spare from Nostromo, who made up ground hand over first up the hill and nearly provided a wonderful return present for Capt Rupert Inglesant, who came back from the Gulf last week.

The Argonaut provided the Queen Mother with her 383rd winner and few will have been more exciting. Never out of the first five in the RMC Group "Unique" Hunter Chase, the 13-year-old's chances appeared slim coming to the last as Corridor was travelling sweetly.

But Gerald Oley, assistant to Cath Walwyn, used all his experience and guile to prevail in a three-way photograph involving the fast-finishing Certain Light. The trio were separated by two short heads.

# Ham fined £500

Gerald Ham was fined £500 by the Jockey Club yesterday after he was found to have been involved in a three-way photograph involving the fast-finishing Certain Light. The trio were separated by two short heads.

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# Yesterday's results

Leicester

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## Australia have their work cut out to save the Test

### Australia

**AUSTRALIA: First Innings** 345 (6 R Marsh 94, M E Waugh 71, J A Healy 55, B P Patterson 44 for 2).

**Second Innings**

D L Haynes c Waugh b Border	111
C Grewing lbw b McDermott	22
D L Haynes c Marsh b McDermott	102
J A Richards b Matthews	50
C Hooper c Waugh b Matthews	82
A L Rose c Healy b Border	54
D L Haynes c Marsh b McDermott	54
M D Marshall not out	1
C A Green b Border	0
B P Patterson not out	0
B P Patterson not out	0
Extras (lb 5, lb 12, nc 2)	19
<b>Total (8 wickets)</b>	<b>622</b>

**FALL OF WICKETS:** 1-10, 2-87, 3-253, 4-301, 5-350, 6-530, 7-530, 8-530.

**SCORING:** Marsh 94, Waugh 71, Healy 55, Patterson 44, Green 54, Marshall 1, Patterson 0, Patterson 0.

**HITWICKETS:** 2-103 (6 R Marsh 37), Matthews 25-4-53 (6 R Marsh 37), Waugh 25-11-61 (5 R Marsh 37).

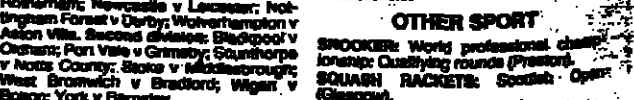
**Umpires:** Cumberbatch and C Duncan.

### Distance no object: Renton strides out during training

He was 51 when he tried his first marathon — London last year. "I didn't know until January that I was in," he said. "They send a schedule encouraging you to run on grass." He took to grass like a cow. "When it came to the race I had never run on

Unisys is offering a Unisys personal computer to the biggest fund-raiser and a jero-bean and magnum of champagne respectively to the second and third.

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## SPORT

● RUGBY UNION 40, 43  
● RACING 41  
● FOOTBALL 43

# A Taylor plays the mystery game

By STUART JONES  
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

ON THE eve of the European championship qualifying tie against the Republic of Ireland, Graham Taylor indulged in a curious game of deception which he concedes is probably pointless. Instead of disclosing his line-up yesterday, as promised, the England manager chose to keep it hidden until this evening.

He could offer no plausible reason for the delay other than to keep himself and Jack Charlton amused. In effect, he is prolonging the subterfuge which began on Sunday when he stated that he would not summon a replacement for Waddle. The following day he called up Sharpe.

On Monday he declared that he would announce his side some 30 hours before the kick-off. Yet the only revelation to be offered concerned the identity of the goalkeeper. Seaman, idle and frozen against Cameroon last month, is to retain his place at the expense of Woods.

"I've had a rethink," Taylor said. "If there is anything to be gained by the delay, then I ought to take that advantage. I'm not certain that there is, anyway. I said I'd give the team today just to see what Jack would say but, knowing him, he probably already knows it."

So why deliberately hang a veil of mystery over his formation? It is not as if the will follow an unpredictable course, as Robson confirmed, or that the respective players, who are in many cases club colleagues, are not intimately familiar with each other.

Robson neatly encapsulated both the prospect and the requirements. "Everybody knows that the Irish throw the ball forward and press in behind it. They don't give defenders or midfield players any time. You have to fight and battle against them before you can establish your own passing game."

Unwittingly, he gave an indication of the attack when he suggested that Barnes, Beardsley and Lineker are suited to England's more sophisticated approach. Robson and Platt will presumably be responsible for dictating

## Group seven

Rep of Ireland	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	1	1	0	0	8	3	3
Poland	1	1	0	0	8	3	3
Turkey	1	1	0	0	8	3	3

RESULTS: England 2, Poland 0; Republic of Ireland 5, Turkey 0; Republic of Ireland 1, England 1; Turkey 0, Poland 1.

REMAINING FIXTURES: 1991: April 17: Poland v Turkey, May 5: Turkey v England; Republic of Ireland v Poland, Oct 16: England v Turkey; Poland v Republic of Ireland, Nov 12: Poland v England; Turkey v Republic of Ireland.

that midfield does not become an area that is either unproductive or bypassed. Wright, expected to act as the covering central defender behind Adams and Walker, can also predict how the evening will develop. "They'll get the ball forward as quickly as possible and put us under a lot of pressure. We can't expect it to be any different from Dublin."

The conditions during the 1-1 draw four months ago were wild. They were even more tempestuous during the World Cup tie in Cagliari last year, which was so undistinguished and ugly that it provoked the Italians to suggest that the British aerial style threatened to damage the ozone layer.

Charlton, tiring of the criticism persistently levelled at his direct and unsuitable tactics, insists that "there is more to us than hump and lump". Taylor, having heard the same accusations when he was in charge at Watford, recognises that the method is not easy to counteract.

Yet the Irish were outplayed when the two nations met in the European championship finals three years ago. Lineker, later to be diagnosed as having hepatitis, appreciates that he alone should have scored three goals. As many other opportunities were scorned in Stuttgart but England lost 1-0.

The defeat initiated talk of an Irish jinx, which has since persisted but was yesterday dismissed by several prospective members of Taylor's line-up. "I don't think there is a 'voodoo'," Barnes said. "Even if there is, it is about time it was laid to rest."

Robson, likely to be captain and to collect his 89th cap, agreed. "There can be no five and the Republic two with five drawn. As the manager of the Republic, Jack Charlton has an unbeaten record from three matches against England. A 1-0 win in the European championship in Stuttgart in 1988, a 1-1 draw in Cagliari during the World Cup last June, and another 1-1 draw in the European championship in Dublin in November."

## WEMBLEY DETAILS

- Receipts of £1.25 million from the 80,000 capacity crowd tonight will set a record for a British international match. Demand for tickets was three times the stadium limit and Wembley authorities returned £2 million to disappointed supporters.
- By making his 48th international appearance, Pat Bonner will become the Republic of Ireland's most-capped goalkeeper.
- Of the 12 previous internationals between the countries, England have won



Under the manager's thumb: O'Leary listening to Charlton during training at Kingstonian's ground yesterday

## Charlton waits for England manager to show his hand

By PETER BALL

THIS evening England and Ireland are playing football, that will make a welcome change from the last two days, when the game has been one of cat and mouse, to the amused disgust of the Republic of Ireland manager, Jack Charlton.

"I'm a bit embarrassed about this silly situation," Charlton explained when he refused to follow his usual practice and name his team after training at Kingston yesterday morning.

"I don't know what we are mucking about at, but big deal, if they want to do that, we'll play along with them." If this was simply a matter of winning a psychological advantage, the Irish manager's scorn for the game of bluff would be easy to comprehend. But he admits that he is awaiting Graham Taylor's formation before finalising his own, and the delay may give

England a small advantage. "I'm a bit puzzled about how Graham will react," Charlton confessed. "I don't know what pattern he'll decide to play, but I'll get a good idea the moment I see his team. When he picked his team in Dublin he showed he is capable of springing a few surprises."

"In Dublin he played three big centre backs. Whether he'll do that this time I don't know. He can play three centre backs and push the full backs up, or he can play two and play the full backs in the hole."

"Barnes might play up front, he could play on the right or the left. Graham might play Platt, or he might not, he might play Bryan Robson. He might play Gordon Cowans or Steven wide on the right."

"I don't care where Barnes plays, I'm not going to upset my team for a single player,

but there are so many ifs and buts about England and I need to know in order to prepare my team properly."

It will be surprising if the game does not follow the pattern established in recent meetings between the two teams.

"Even at Wembley, it'll be like an English League game," Paul McGrath said. "At least that's the way we'll play. We'll keep tight and play the ball behind them." Moving McGrath back to his club position would be one option if Charlton decides to amend his usual pattern.

With Dennis Irwin likely to be preferred at right back to Chris Morris, the Irish team almost picks itself.

REVENUE ENGLAND SQUAD: D. Seaman (Arsenal), D. Woods (Rangers), D. Barnes (Aston Villa), A. Adams (Aston Villa), S. Pearce (Hull City), G. Lineker (Manchester United), G. Cowans (Aston Villa), D. Platt (Aston Villa), D. Walker (Manchester United), J. Wright (Crystal Palace), L. Sharpe (Manchester United), J. Barnes (Manchester United), J. Beardsley (Liverpool), G. Thompson (Crystal Palace), B. Beardsley (Liverpool), G. Thompson (Crystal Palace), B. Beardsley (Liverpool), G. Thompson (Crystal Palace).

Scotland's challenge, page 43

## Smith resigns from Newcastle

By LOUISE TAYLOR

JIM Smith parted company with Newcastle United yesterday when his resignation was accepted by the board of the second-division club. Bobby Saxton, his assistant, will take temporary charge pending a fresh appointment.

During Smith's two-and-a-half-year tenure at St James' Park, United were relegated from the first division, and have subsequently struggled to escape the second. With Newcastle having agreed to pay Smith, aged 50, compensation on the outstanding year of his contract, it is apparent that he was asked to leave.

Oswaldo Ardiles, the manager of Swindon Town, is the favourite to succeed Smith. Brian Little, whose Darlington side leads the fourth division, and Bryan Robson, the Manchester United and England midfielder player, are also believed to be in contention.

Yesterday, Ardiles said: "I have nothing to say on the subject of Newcastle." A Newcastle spokesman said: "It is quite possible that Bobby Saxton will be in charge here until the end of the season."

Lately, attendances at St James' Park have fallen to fewer than 14,000, with chants of "Smith out" echoing around the ground during the last three home matches as the ageing side failed to establish itself in the play-off zone.

The seeds of Smith's downfall were sown last May, when Newcastle finished third in the second division but lost to Sunderland in the semi-finals of the promotion play-offs, a result which provoked a riot by disgruntled United supporters.

At present, Newcastle are eleventh in the table. Bjorn Kristensen and Mark McGhee have failed to live up to their

reputations, giving Smith a poor return on his investments. Formerly in charge of Boston United, Colchester United, Birmingham City, Queen's Park Rangers and Oxford United, Smith was active in the transfer market. He bought 23 players and sold 24 during his time on Tyneside.

But the achievement of a balanced blend proved elusive, and he was understood to have been interested in moving to Watford after the dismissal of Colin Lee earlier in the season.

It is expected that Smith will return to the south of England. His disillusionment with Newcastle was precipitated not only because the club's supporters were losing patience with him, but also by a prolonged boardroom power struggle between factions loyal to Gordon McKeag, the for-

mer chairman, and John Hall, the northeast entrepreneur, which led to the launch of an abortive share issue. That in turn prompted the resignation of McKeag and his replacement by George Forbes, a local businessman, earlier this season.

Things could have been different had Smith not inherited a club which had sold its prime assets, Peter Beardsley, Chris Waddle and Paul Gascoigne, in order to finance the building of the impressive but often sparsely populated - Milburn Stand.

The Scottish international, Tommy Boyd, has decided to stay with Motherwell, at least until their Scottish Cup run is over. Motherwell meet Celtic in the semi-finals next month, and Boyd, aged 25, who looked likely to move to Chelsea when the two clubs agreed a £750,000 fee last week, says he wants more time to think over his future.

The solution was an attachment

## S Africa must play by rules says Buthelezi

From DAVID MILLER in ULUNDI, SOUTH AFRICA

"HOW many divisions has the Pope?" Khrushchev mockingly asked. There are many moments when morality speaks louder than guns, and if the International Olympic Committee delegation visiting South Africa needed encouragement - which I doubt - they heard it amid the rolling emerald hills of the Zulu homeland here yesterday.

Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the chief minister of KwaZulu and president of the Inkatha Freedom Party, may have no tanks, nor any seat in the parliament of the National government, but his words to the delegation carried the power and pride that cost the British so dearly at Rorke's Drift. Apartheid may have denied black South Africa a thousand human rights. Among them has been the presence at the Olympic Games of one of this planet's most handsome peoples: runners and throwers, boxers and wrestlers of mythological strength and grace.

"Sport will hasten the process, and the progress, of rationalism," Chief Buthelezi said. "Sport can be a tool of change, an example to other cultures, for sport is as much a way of life for South African blacks as for South African whites."

As the IOC took off from Ulundi's tiny airport, into that vast, peaceful stillness of an African dusk turning to nightfall, the truthfulness of the meeting in the KwaZulu council chamber had been a moment of unique emotion in the history of sport's most famous institution.

The IOC's initiative, Chief Buthelezi said, gave everyone in Africa hope, because apartheid had demeaned everyone in Africa. "What they did to us, they did to Africa."

Yet, more important to the delegation than the emotion which flowed from Buthelezi, was his logic. Sport, he said, was vital for South Africa in helping develop leadership for the conduct in which party political differences were settled. "Sport coaches people for higher office," Chief Buthelezi said, "and does so in such a way that the checks and balances which are there in democracy are made to work because people want them to work."

The Zulu leader preached not just to the white National government of the liberalising President F W de Klerk, but to the rival Xhosa tribe, with which the Zulus are locked in violent rivalry. In his presidential address of July last year, responding to the assassination of 52 Inkatha leaders, Chief Buthelezi proclaimed his party's superiority as a

non-violent pro-democratic organisation.

To the IOC he said: "There is so much aggression in South Africa as a consequence of many decades of harsh racist rule, that anything that will help turn political competition into political co-operation is vitally needed. The lesson sport has for us is that competition is only permissible when it is played within the rules. There are rules of the game to be played in South Africa, and it is vital that South Africa's political leaders should borrow from the sports world the spirit with which competition becomes civilising."

Chief Buthelezi emphasised that reform was now irreversible; that President de Klerk was captive to a political situation in which, without continuing reform, the National Party would perish; and that white society was demanding normalisation, and was dependent on black support for survival.

"Everything in South Africa is going to be in crisis during the years that lie ahead, after... a multi-party democracy has been established," Chief Buthelezi said. "That also includes sport. You cannot redistribute sports centres. You can only add to them. The millions of blacks living outside convenient travelling distance to facilities will have to be provided with new facilities."

In any democracy, he said, there would always be committee conflict: as there is at the moment between the non-racial bodies with whom the IOC had again debated principles in the morning, and when the South African Council of Sport had been pressing for one-man-one-vote before sport's internationalism. Yet it was imperative, Chief Buthelezi said, that the IOC back the best that was coming out of South Africa.

"If the IOC and foreign governments begin insisting on more than a really honest nationwide struggle to establish democracy, then we are going to be condemned to remain out of the international sporting community for as far as one can see ahead," Chief Buthelezi said.

On Monday in Cape Town, Mr de Klerk had said that while "governments can change laws, sport can change minds". Armed with that knowledge, with the emotional common sense of Buthelezi, and, optimistically, with the support of Nelson Mandela, whom they meet this morning, the IOC delegation can be expected to announce historic resolutions on the question of South African sport this afternoon.

## Ruddock receives a second chance

NEW ORLEANS (AP) - The tale that ended in controversy is to have a second chapter. Donovan Ruddock will step back into the boxing ring against Mike Tyson on June 28, the promoter, Don King, said yesterday. King said the decision for a rematch was reached within 48 hours of the first event.

Tyson stopped Ruddock in the seventh round of a 12-round match on March 18 at

The Mirage in Las Vegas, which will be the site of the rematch. Their bout will be the main event on a card featuring three world championship contests.

Tyson won a disputed victory when the referee, Richard Steele, stopped the bout in the seventh round following a flurry of punches by the former world heavyweight champion that sent Ruddock stumbling backwards.

## Pool complex poised to make a £58m splash

By CRAIG LORD

THE birth this month of Britain's finest and, at £58.2 million, most expensive swimming complex was a low-key affair. The pool-warming party, however, will hot up tomorrow, when some of the most celebrated members of the international swimming family gather for the sixth round of the World Cup at Ponds Forge, Sheffield.

Three-and-a-half years after FaulknerBrown, the architectural firm, won the design competition to build a revolutionary aquatic facility, one of the remaining questions is whether or not the baptism will be one of fire.

On the eve of the World Cup event, a few dissenting voices have suggested that in concentrating on the grand design, the parents of



Ponds Forge have neglected important details. To those who have overseen more than 80 construction-related contracts, such criticism is seen at best as churlish and at worst untrue.

The pool bears no resemblance to the familiar public baths, it is, instead, a work of engineering art, courtesy of Ove Arup and Partners (the engineers). At the heart of the complex, underneath a spectacular arched roof, lies a ten-lane Olympic pool capable of conversion into pools of different sizes. The key to this is two mobile bulkheads at either end and a floating floor.

This weekend, both bulkheads will be moved into the centre of the pool to create one of the deepest (a uniform three metres), and therefore potentially fastest, 25-metre tanks in the world. With swimmers now able, since March 3, to set world records in short-course (25-metre) pools, the standard of racing promises to live up to that of the building.

However, the bulkheads, which weigh nine tons each, are 1.24 metres wide, raising doubts about whether there is room on the top for eight starting blocks, eight competitors, rising to 32 for team races, 16 officials and chairs. This prompted an inspection yesterday by Malcolm Hill, one of the event's organisers, and Hamilton Black, the swimming consultant for Ponds Forge.

of a cantilevered platform on to one of the bulkheads, including fixed seating for the officials. The fixture was described by organisers as "not necessarily solving the problem, but we can now get by with it." Bland, however, said the platform looked "a million dollars".

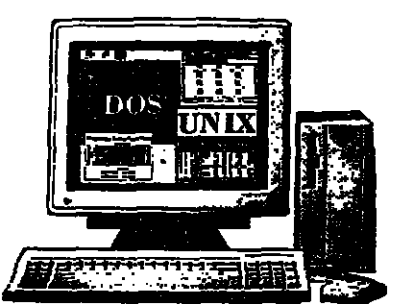
Time will tell for the bulkhead, as it will for the timing system. The Omega facility, according to sources who will operate the equipment, does not include a fixed data handling facility and is the same as that installed at the Commonwealth Pool in Edinburgh 20 years ago. This means that scrolled results cannot be shown on the scoreboard by the in-house equipment. Instead, organisers will have to hire in

equipment and expertise at a five-figure cost.

It may be impolite to point out these things. However, the taxpayers of Sheffield and the swimming fraternity may wish to know why such details were overlooked when £58 million was being spent to give the city and sport the very best. Bland said: "It is not trial and error here. We are confident that we have a superb facility, though, of course, we will be fine tuning things all the time."

Amid the uncertainty, one thing is sure: the swimmers who will grace Ponds Forge's waters this weekend will revel in Britain's most spectacular facility, which ultimately can only enhance the sport.

# Sun.



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